Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-062
Thursday
31 March 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-062

CONTENTS

31 March 1994

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Executive Secretary Welcomes Euro-Asian Union Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 1
Diplomat: Euro-Asian Union Will Generate Problems *[INTERFAX]* 1
Army Paper Welcomes Nazarbayev Call for New Union *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Mar]* 1
Baltin Urges Yeltsin, Kravchuk To Resolve Dispute *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Consultative Council Session on Labor, Migration Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
95 Percent of Hardware Withdrawn From Baltics *[YANTARNIY KRAY 23 Mar]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 31 Mar 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Moscow Reconsiders Joining Partnership for Peace *[AFP]* 4
Panov Qualifies Military Assistance to DPRK *[IZVESTIYA 31 Mar]* 4
Says Unprovoked Aggression 'Impossible' *[IZVESTIYA 1 Apr]* 5
Foreign Ministry Says Position on DPRK Distorted *[SEGODNYA 31 Mar]* 5
Perry Assessment of Korea Situation Cited *[IZVESTIYA 31 Mar]* 6
Vested Interests Said Behind Korea Crisis *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Mar]* 6
U.S. Making It Clear 'Honeymoon Is Over' *[TRUD 30 Mar]* 7
U.S. Delegation Briefed on Economic Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Lobov Holds Talks With U.S. Officials *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Trade, Economic Cooperation Agreements Signed With U.S. *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
U.S. Bank To Provide $1 Billion Credit *[INTERFAX]* 10
Churkin Warns Against Breaches of Croatian Cease-Fire *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Notes U.S. Role in Reaching Accord *[SEGODNYA 31 Mar]* 10
Terms Cease-Fire Success for Russia *[Russian TV]* 11
Editorial Views Success for Russian Mediation *[IZVESTIYA 31 Mar]* 11
Diplomat Carrying Secrets Disappears in Thailand *[Moscow TV]* 12
Search for Missing Diplomat Under Way *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Chernomyrdin Leaves on Two-Day Official Visit to Hungary *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Chernomyrdin Arrives in Budapest *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Interviewed on Trade Relations *[Budapest Radio]* 12
Deems Hungary 'Promising' Economic Partner *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Chernomyrdin Meets Polish Sejm Officials in Moscow *[Warsaw TV]* 13
Sejm Speaker Says PFP Should Not Harm Ties *[Moscow Radio]* 14
Sejm Speaker Meets With Rybkin *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Official Views Ratification of Baykonur Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 14
'Both Sides Win' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* 15
Kozyrev, Kyrgyz Leader Discuss Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 15

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin 'Basically' Approves Civic Accord Agreement *[INTERFAX]* 17
Yeltsin Hands Rybkin Civic Accord Memorandum *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Shakhray Believes Civic Accord Can Be Given Legal Form *[INTERFAX]* 17
Democratic Russia Seeks Change to Civic Accord *[INTERFAX]* 17
Explosion Near Yeltsin Residence 'Ordinary Crime' *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Yeltsin May Feel 'Duty' To Run Again *[IZVESTIYA 1 Apr]* 18
Paper Defends Publication *[Moscow TV]* 19
Lawsuit Filed Against Paper for Coup Warning *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Yeltsin Endorses Program for Interaction of Authorities *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Supreme Court Urges Trial of Yanayev, Tizyakov To Proceed *[INTERFAX]* 20
Poll Says Chernomyrdin Most Influential Political Figure *[INTERFAX]* 20
Union Warns Yeltsin Over Reduced TV, Radio Broadcasts *[ITAR-TASS]* 20

Economic Issues

Former Finance Minister Backs Current Economic Policy *[Radio Rossii]* 20
Soskovets Reviews Economic Indices At Government Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Dubinin Forecasts End to Economic Slump Late 1994 *[INTERFAX]* 21

Military Issues

Navy Deputy Chief Urges Nation To Build Balanced Force *[INTERFAX]* 21
State Committee Chairman on Plight of Defense Industry *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Underfinanced Defense Ministry Switches Focus *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 31 Mar]* 22
Arms Producers Demand Government Support *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* 22
Radioactive Contamination Sites Reported in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 23

Federal Assembly

Aspects of Draft Federal Budget, Economic Forecast Reported *[PRAVDA 30 Mar]* 23
Panel Head on Social Policy Draft *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Mar]* 23
Parliament Members Meet Muslim Religious Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 25

Regional Affairs

North Ossetia Extends State of Emergency 2 Months *[Radio Rossii]* 26
Nizhniy Novgorod Mayor Implicated in Electoral Fraud *[IZVESTIYA 31 Mar]* 26
Yeltsin Dismisses Acting Mayor *[INTERFAX]* 26
Ousted Vladivostok Officials Turn to Court *[KRASNOYE ZNAMYA 29 Mar]* 26
Bryansk Elections Take Place in 'Unstable' Situation *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Mar]* 27
Kaliningrad To Receive 'As Much Power as Possible' *[SVOBODNAYA ZONA 29 Mar]* 28
No. Ossetian Delegates Fail To Attend Conciliation Talks *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* . 28
No. Ossetia Accused of Boycotting Normalization *[INTERFAX]* 28
Chechen Official on Ties With Moscow, Khasbulatov *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 31 Mar]* 28
PRES Forms Regional Branch in Tatarstan *[RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN 29 Mar]* 29
Presidential Administration Aide on Regional Elections *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Mar]* 29
St. Petersburg Elections Fail To Produce Viable Authority *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Mar]* 30
Voter Turnout Low in Urban Areas of Kursk Oblast *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* 30
Communists Gain Most Party Seats in Local Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Maritime Kray Leaders Discuss Immediate Plans *[Vladivostok Radio]* 31

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ukraine Urged To Pay Black Sea Fleet Power Bill *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 30 Mar]* .. 32
Crimean President's Aide: Ukraine Cannot Finance Fleet *[Russian TV]* 32
Crimea, Tatarstan Establish Ties at Presidential Level *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 29 Mar]* 32
Gas Debt to Turkmenistan Sold to Private Corporation *[UNIAR]* 32
Canadian Foreign Minister Meets With Zlenko *[Kiev Radio]* 33

National Affairs

Kuchma to Run in Ukrainian Presidential Election *[UNIAN]* 33
Run-Off Elections Scheduled for 3, 10 Apr *[UNIAN]* 33
Report on Candidates Eligible for Next Round *[INTERFAX]* 33
UNIAR Reports List of People's Deputies Elected 27 Mar *[UNIAR]* 33
Positive Result in Plebiscite on Crimea-Ukraine Ties *[Kiev International]* 35
Ukrainian Official on Elections, Navy *[Brussells LE SOIR 30 Mar]* 35
Official on Keeping Conscripts Within Crimea *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Crimean Aide Rejects Claim to Half of Coastal Fleet *[Russian TV]* 37
Defense Minister on Black Sea Fleet, U.S. Trip *[KIEVSKIYE NOVOSTI 25 Mar]* 37
U.S. Envoy, Crimea's Bahrov Discuss Referendum, Investment *[Kiev Radio]* 38
Meshkov Issues Decree on National Minorities Law *[UNIAR]* 38
Kuchma Urges Early Adoption of Taxation Law *[INTERFAX]* 39
Kravchuk: Crimea May Act Freely in Economic Sphere *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Parliament Adopts Law on Constitutional Court *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Parties Begin Nominating Presidential Candidates *[PRAVDA 31 Mar]* 40
Communist Party Nominates Novikaw *[SEM DNEY 26 Mar]* 40

Opposition Popular Front Nominates Paznyak *[BELAPAN]* 40
Popular Front Nominates Poznyak *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Opposition Deputy Reports on Supreme Soviet Closed Session *[BELAPAN]* 41
Lukashenka Presents Corruption Report, Demands Resignations *[BELAPAN]* 41
Supreme Soviet Rejects Governement Draft on Monetary Policy *[BELAPAN]* 41
Leftist DSPS: Vouchers Will Strip Workers of Social Rights *[RID]* 42

Moldova

Russian Commander Issues Order on Defense Against Attacks *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Snegur Dismisses Claims Russian Speakers Leaving *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Mar]* 42

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Rules Out Nuclear Testing at Semipalatinsk *[INTERFAX]* 43
Views Russian-Kazakhstan Relations *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 31 Mar]* 43

Tajikistan

Peacekeeping Forces General Says Republic Needs No Army *[INTERFAX]* 43
Agreement Signed With Russia on Military Call Up *[Dushanbe Radio]* 44
Tajik Peace Settlement Prospects Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 30 Mar]* 44

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Armenia Expresses Regret Over Iranian Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 46
Probe Into Iranian Crash Proves 'Complicated' *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 31 Mar]* 46

Azerbaijan

Minister Urges Deserters To Return by 15 Apr *[Baku TV]* 46
Armenian Attacks in Agdamskiy Rayon Reported *[Baku TV]* 47
CIS Assembly Delegation To Tour Transcaucasus *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Shevinkulov Prepares Meeting of Armenians, Azeris *[INTERFAX]* 48
Ministry Spokesman Says Moscow Talks Useful *[INTERFAX]* 48
Elchibey on Aliyev's Suppression of Opposition *[Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN 20 Mar]* 48
Adviser Beats Up Human Rights Committee Chairman *[Russian TV]* 49
Local Currency Plight, Inflation Growth Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 29 Mar]* 49

Georgia

State Security Service Subject to Parliamentary Control *[Tbilisi Radio]* 50
Estimated 1,000 Militiamen Occupy Parliament Buildings *[AFP]* 50
Security Guards, Police Clash *[IBERIA]* 50
Shevardnadze Calms Protesting Police *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
Abkhaz Mission Denies Kodor Scene of Fighting *[INTERFAX]* 50
Report Successful Operation in Kodor *[INTERFAX]* 51
Sporadic Gunfire Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Abkhaz Separatists Continue Attack on Lata Gorge *[Tbilisi Radio]* 51
S. Ossetian 'Supreme Council' Elections End 30 Mar *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* ... 51
New Department To Monitor Political Parties *[NOVAYA GAZETA No. 4]* 51

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Second Round of Free-Trade Talks With EU Held *[BNS]* 53
Danish Minister Visits, Signs Cooperation Pact *[BNS]* 53
Luik: No Obligation To Follow Riga's Example *[ITAR-TASS* 54
Chief Russian Negotiator Says Positive Results Possible *[ETA]* 54
Officials Comment on Paldiski Registration *[BNS]* 54
Minister Approves Plan for Reactor Dismantling *[BNS]* 54
Customs Expects No Problems With Free-Trade Pact *[BNS]* 55

Latvia

Cabinet Statement on Troop Withdrawal Agreement *[LETA]* 55
Bildt For Parliament Approving Treaty With Russia *[Stockholm Radio]* 56
Ulmanis Briefs Bildt on Agreements *[Riga Radio]* 56

Bildt on Latvia's Problems *[Stockholm Radio]* 57
Homeland, Freedom Deputies Demand Information *[BNS]* 57
Popular Concord Party Supports Withdrawal Accord *[BNS]* 57
Cabinet Approves Privatization Agency *[BNS]* 58

Lithuania

Brazauskas, U.S. Envoy Discuss Regional Issues *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Premier, Foreign Minister on Foreign Policy *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
CE Official Notes President's Upcoming Address *[BNS]* 59
Visit of Swedish Navy Commander *[Vilnius Radio]* 60
National Currency Pegged to U.S. Dollar at 1:4 *[Vilnius Radio]* 60

Executive Secretary Welcomes Euro-Asian Union Proposal

LD3003162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoi]

[Text] "I have always supported ideas which consolidated the Commonwealth," Ivan Korotchenya, CIS eexcutive secretary,told Interfax Wednesday.

He described the proposal made by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev that the CIS should be transformed into a closer Euro-Asian Union as "exceptionally useful and sound."

Korotchenya did not know, however, what the basic propositions the union would be dedicated to.

In his view, Nazarbayev's proposal will be discussed by the CIS Moscow summit to be held on April 15.

"No offical documents on the setting up a Euro-Asian Union have reached the CIS Secretariat," Korotchenya said.

Diplomat: Euro-Asian Union Will Generate Problems

LD3003163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] The proposal made by the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the setting up of a Euro-Asian Union of CIS member states would generate more questions than answer them, a highly placed Russian Foreign Ministry official in charge of CIS affairs told Interfax.

He described Nazarbayev's idea as interesting "but every idea must be thoroughly prepared. In particular, there is no saying what consequences would follow for the CIS that has just won the status of an observer in the UN. If closer ties between two or more CIS member states frighten the others and the union becomes a purely formal body, this will hardly be a desirable outcome."

In his words, Russia wanted a stronger Commonwealth. "Ways have to be found to implement the Kazakh president's proposals that would be conducive to this goal," the diplomat said.

Army Paper Welcomes Nazarbayev Call for New Union

PM3103094794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Vladimir Gavrilenko article under the "Postscriptum: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Nursultan Nazarbayev Always Has Ideas. In Moscow the President of Kazakhstan Left More Than Just His Signature on 23 Kazakhstani-Russian Documents"]

[Text] After taking his leave of Boris Yeltsin, Nursultan Nazarbayev visited the mayor of Moscow and Moscow State University in turn. Quite frankly, he amazed the Moscow public. Only not so much with the essence of what he said as with his shrewdness: Nursultan Abishevich said something which recently has been actively preying on the minds of politicians in a considerable part of the post-Soviet area. This is the idea of uniting it in a Eurasian Union [EAU]. "I believe," the president said at a reception in the capital's City Hall, "that it is necessary to disband the association within the CIS framework because it does not work." He went on to expound his views on the EAU. He believes that it is necessary to form supranational working organs to coordinate economic, defense, and foreign policies. The union must have a common parliament. This is to make it possible to bring together the laws of the states in the union. The EAU needs an interstate executive secretariat appointed by the heads of state and common citizenship registered in a single passport. Even the currency could be common and supranational—like the European ECU.... Nursultan Nazarbayev concluded as follows: "We must take this step, and our children would continue strengthening this union."

In my view this idea needs least of all epithets like "new," "fresh," and "unexpected." I believe that epithets such as "sensible" and "realistic" suit it better. If you look at the abbreviation EAU, you perceive something familiar.... Well, of course, the European Union! But you certainly cannot suspect the Europeans of being rash and indulging in state romanticism—it took them decades to arrive at their community. They surmounted difficult obstacles, which we have written about in different ways at different times—ten years ago with playful skepticism, now with interested surprise and maybe even envy. Well I never: ...They are uniting while we are scattering. The bitter taste as a result of this, I believe, burns the souls of many people in the former Soviet republics. It is offensive to see Europeans chuckling about it.

I do not doubt that many people in Ukraine feel this burning sensation. The recent elections have made them feel it. They feel it in Moldavia [Moldova], where the new parliament has now begun working. Belorussia [Belarus] has also demonstrated this, with its firm desire for economic union. How will others respond to this? We shall see. But if we are or, at least, want to be realists, the EAU is a vital idea. From all viewpoints: historical,

economic, military, not to mention geopolitical.... In this part of the globe, where mankind is accustomed to seeing a unified state, we must not procreate dozens of weak formations at odds with each other. Of course, some people will see an image of the old empire. But it is perfectly within our power to create a union on totally new principles, without the former imperial aroma. So let us thank Nursultan Nazarbayev for his political telepathy: He has perceived in time and given voice to the mental impulses of many of us.

I would like to think that Nazarbayev's idea was not announced in Moscow without the Russian president's knowledge. I want to believe it.

Baltin Urges Yeltsin, Kravchuk To Resolve Dispute

LD3003140494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvratsman]

[Text] Sevastopol March 30 TASS—The black Sea Fleet dispute can be resolved only by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, according to Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Baltin's spokesman Andrey Grachev said the commander hopes that President Boris Yeltsin and President Leonid Kravchuk will solve the problem soon and find the only correct decision reflecting the military, political and economic possibilities of the two countries.

Baltin believes that the dependence of military and political tasks on the economic situation is crucial for solving the Black Sea Fleet problem. Russia and Ukraine have no big disagreements, while those that exist can be solved by political means, the spokesman quoted Baltin as saying.

The fleet commander considers himself subordinated to both presidents and agrees all his decisions with them, Grachev continued. He voiced concern about unilateral decisions concerning the Black Sea Fleet by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, stressing that the Russian side remains adherent to the Massandra Agreements which must be observed.

Commenting on Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's proposal to Ukraine to withdraw its troops from the Crimea, Grachev said that should such a decision appear, the Black Sea Fleet commanders will provide Moscow, Kiev and Simferopol with firm guarantees of the security of their southern frontiers.

Consultative Council Session on Labor, Migration Ends

LD3003221794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By KAZTAG correspondent Yelena Miroglova for TASS]

[Text] Almaty, 30 Mar—The CIS consultative council on labor, migration, and social protection of the population finished its work here today. Its attention was focused on problems connected with the development of a common labor market.

It discussed reports by labor ministers on migration processes, the social and labor situation in CIS states and measures being undertaken in this sphere, as well as matters relating to cooperation and interaction in training and raising the qualifications of staff employed in central labor bodies. The council decided to create joint training programs and a data bank on labor and social protection matters.

It examined a number of draft agreements, in particular a multilateral agreement on reciprocal actions and cooperation in work safety. Draft bilateral agreements were prepared between Russia and Kazakhstan on regulating migration processes, employment of the population, investigation of production accidents and also a number of others of importance for the two states.

95 Percent of Hardware Withdrawn From Baltics

WS3003135394 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by V. Borisov: "Only 5 Percent in Stock"]

[Text] The withdrawal of the Baltic Fleet from Latvia and Estonia continues. According to Admiral Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, 95 percent of the military hardware had been withdrawn as of mid-March.

The Baltic Fleet commander clarified that military hardware from Liepai will be withdrawn by 1 May of this year. Similar work is being carried out in Tallinn where the remaining artillery ammunition in the depots is outdated. However, the situation becomes more complicated because Tallinn harbor is covered with ice and shipments must be carried out by railroad.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 31 Mar

LD3103061794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 31 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 31 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's Russian newspapers concentrate on an idea of setting up a Eurasian Union (EAU), which was put forth by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

"The Kazakh president seeks to replace the moribund structures of the Commonwealth of Independent States with new organisations resembling more the European Union than the USSR," the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes.

Praising "the reasonable, realistic and vital" idea of creating the EAU, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA daily

stresses that this initiative "was recently agitating the minds of politicians in post-Soviet space".

The PRAVDA newspaper shares this appraisal, noting that "the euphoria of sovereignties has passed". The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper forecasts that "the idea of reforming the CIS will be amplified at the next Commonwealth summit.

Summing up the results of the Kazakh president's visit to Moscow, which ended on Wednesday, PRAVDA stresses that the sides at the talks "made real headway to bring the two republics closer together".

Commenting on the results of the Russian-Kazakh summit, the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper dwells at length on duel citizenship which the Kazakh side refused to discuss. According to the newspaper, "this question was postponed: the problem of Russians in Kazakhstan still remains".

"The CIS development will be stable if all the Commonwealth members take into account the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to a greater extent," CSCE Secretary-General Wilhelm Hoeynck said in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

He sees the CSCE's task in 1994 "in creating stability in the region between Vancouver to Vladivostok" and favours the development of contacts between the CSCE and the CIS.

Newspapers single out, among other topics, the survival of Russian science. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI notes that scientists are at the bottom of the list of civil servants for the remuneration of their labour.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, this causes the outflow of specialists to other spheres of employment, which means the doom of fundamental science. "There will be no top-notch specialists in Russia by the year 2013," the newspaper cites calculations by the institute of social and political research of the Russian academy of sciences.

"Medical science will not survive, if authorities brush it aside," president of the Russian academy of medical sciences Valentin Pokrovskiy said in an interview with PRAVDA. He substantiates the need for state investments in medical fundamental science. According to the scientist, it "takes the 32nd place out of 35 as to its financing".

Speaking of non-payments in industry, Economics Institute director Leonid Abalkin claims in his article in NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA that "non-payments were provoked by the Finance Ministry's actions".

The author examines in detail questions of employment and investments in the Russian economy.

The Russian President's special representative Vitaliy Churkin commented in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on particulars of an agreement concluded on Wednesday between Krajina Serbs and Croats at the Russian Embassy in Zagreb.

According to Churkin, "a new round of talks on economic issues between Croats and Krajina Serbs can be arranged" in Zagreb in two weeks' time.

"Work on reorganising security bodies has been completed. A new Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCIS) has been established in Russia," FCIS director Sergey Stepashin told KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. He described activities of Russian secret services.

Lithuania "has no such service as counterintelligence" Vytautas Petkevicius, chaiman of the Lithuanian parliament committee on national security, said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

According to Petkevicius, the small Lithuanian Army "has not even regulations, let alone a military doctrine" and will be used for "putting down conflicts".

Writing in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Sakha (Yakut) President Mikhail nikolayev opposed the dumping of the federal treaty which has not become a part of the Russian constitution.

Regarding the treaty as "a long-term document", Nikolyaev calls for "making it an object of every-day policy".

Moscow Reconsiders Joining Partnership for Peace

AU3103134894 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 31 (AFP)—Russia is reconsidering plans to join a partnership program with NATO and will not make a decision until sometime next autumn, presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said Thursday.

"Boris Yeltsin believes six to seven months is needed" to make a decision, Kostikov said at a Kremlin news conference. "The president will not be rushed, he will discuss the matter with all political parties."

Russian and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials had previously indicated that Russia would join the program, known as Partnership for Peace, in April.

"Russia's interests must be preserved," Kostikov said, adding that "dangers exist" to Russia's membership in the program, which extends a cooperative link from NATO to its former east bloc adversaries.

Kostikov said that "many people" in Russia supported membership in the NATO program, notably officials in the foreign ministry, the Defense Ministry and the federal counterespionage service.

"But there are arguments against (joining) that must be taken into account," Kostikov said.

He said that in particular "one of the documents" involved in Russia's membership in the partnership program "does not correspond to Russia's interests."

Kostikov did not specify what document this was, but he stressed that an agreement on trade of Russian-made weapons "needs to be reviewed."

Arguments in favor of joining the program focused on closer cooperation with the West and maintaining high efficiency of the Russian Armed Forces comparable to Western levels.

Vladimir Lukin, the former Russian ambassador to Washington who now leads a pro-reform faction in parliament, earlier outlined seven questions which he said must be answered before Moscow could sign on to the Partnership scheme.

Those questions included how responsibilities were to be divided between member nations, how decisions were to be made, implications for military ties between the former Soviet republics, standardization of military hardware and how Russia was to finance its membership in the scheme.

"The answer to these questions is indispensable for a decision to be made on whether Russia will take part in the program," Lukin said at a news conference.

He stressed however that he was not necessarily opposed to Russia joining the partnership program, but noted that "long talks" with the NATO countries that proposed the plan were needed before Russia could make a decision.

In Warsaw, meanwhile, Polish Defence Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk cast doubt on Moscow's sincerity in wanting to join the Partnership for Peace, suggesting the Russian leadership had political reasons for doing so.

"I think I am right in wondering if it is not just an expedient gesture," he told a press conference. "Russia looks like a besieged fortress. It is a self-isolation which helps them with their domestic political games."

He said Russian membership would be "a positive thing," adding that "the more secure and stable Russia is, the more secure Europe can feel."

"We hope admission to the Partnership for Peace will make Russia treat us as partners, and that they will at last understand that we are no longer their underlings," he said.

Panov Qualifies Military Assistance to DPRK

PM3003145794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Treaty With Pyongyang on Military Assistance Still Valid"]

[Text] "In accordance with the existing treaty between the USSR and the DPRK Russia will provide North Korea with assistance in the event of unprovoked aggression against it, but it will decide this solely on the basis of its own analysis," Russia Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov has said during a meeting with journalists.

The news agencies took these words as an expression of support for Kim Il-song's regime. However, the Foreign Ministry took a calm view of that. They gave IZVESTIYA the following explanation:

"The Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between Moscow and Pyongyang was signed in 1961. This document has no time limit—the sides automatically extend it every five years. In 1995 we will decide whether to extend it for another term or sign a new treaty with North Korea. It is valid today, albeit pro forma, and this means that Russia would provide the DPRK with the requisite assistance if it decided that Pyongyang was the victim of aggression. What is more, under existing legislation the North Koreans will only receive military assistance once parliament has adopted a corresponding decision," a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

During his conversation with journalists Aleksandr Panov had described the situation on the Korean Peninsula as "teetering on the brink of war."

In the deputy minister's opinion, Moscow's recent initiative calling for the convocation of an international conference involving the six interested states—China, the United States, Japan, Russia, the DPRK, and the ROK—along with representatives of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is in the interests of a settlement on the Korean peninsula.

Says Unprovoked Aggression 'Impossible'

PM3103143194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Moscow Does Not Want To Fall Out With Washington and Seoul Over Kim Il-song's Nuclear Ambitions"]

[Text] "There has been no change in Russia's position on the Korean crisis. The main thing for us is for Pyongyang to meet its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. If the UN Security Council considers a resolution requiring North Korea to admit International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to its nuclear installations, Russia's representative will vote in favor," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov, who is responsible for the Far East region at the Foreign Ministry, said during an interview with IZVESTIYA.

It was Panov's statement to journalists early this week that caused a slight shock around the world. News agencies carried flashes that Moscow intends to observe the 1961 treaty between the Soviet Union and the DPRK and offer Pyongyang assistance "in the event of unprovoked aggression."

"My words were taken out of context," Panov explained. "When answering the journalist's questions I only reiterated our position, which contains nothing new; it was formulated a year ago. Russia as the legal successor to the USSR will fulfill its commitments under the 1961 treaty. However, mindful of the fact that the world situation is totally different now, we will act on the basis of our own analysis, act in Russia's interests, and take into consideration not only the treaty with North Korea, but also our country's other international commitments, including on nuclear nonproliferation."

You could see from what the deputy minister said that he wanted to place the emphasis on the latter part of his answer but journalists focused their attention on the first sentence. As a result a distorted notion of Russia's approach developed. Nevertheless, Panov asserts that both Seoul and Washington have correctly appraised the situation.

Moscow quite possibly had to provide additional explanations to ensure that. Be that as it may, U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Wednesday that his country does not feel worried by what the Russian diplomat said. And South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, acknowledging Russia's role in settling the crisis, has decided to send Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu to Moscow. According to reports from Smolenskaya Square [Russian Foreign Ministry], the visit, the dates of which have not yet been agreed, will presumably go ahead in the second half of April.

While trying to exploit the situation on the Korean Peninsula to strengthen its positions in Asia, Russia is at the same time by no means keen to fall out with Washington and Seoul over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. Significantly, Moscow, unlike Beijing, is willing to back a UN Security Council resolution designed to step up international pressure on the "great leader." Russia has no wish to gain a reputation as the patron of a loathsome Communist regime. And however much people in Pyongyang may recall a treaty dating back 33 years, its significance should hardly be overestimated.

In conversation with IZVESTIYA Aleksandr Panov admitted that "unprovoked aggression" by any state against the DPRK is virtually impossible at the moment. Consequently there are no grounds for talking, even hypothetically, about military aid for Kim Il-song from Moscow.

Foreign Ministry Says Position on DPRK Distorted

MK3103082094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Chudodeyev report in the "Korean Peninsula" column: "The Russian Foreign Ministry Denies Possibility of Aid for Kim Il- song. The National-Patriots Shift Their Sympathies to the North Korean Dictator"]

[Excerpt] The 29 March INTERFAX report quoting Aleksandr Panov, former Russian ambassador to South Korea and currently Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, saying that Moscow will render assistance to North Korea in the event of unprovoked aggression against it because Russia, as successor to the USSR, is linked with the DPRK by a corresponding treaty of 1961, according to Foreign Ministry officials distorts the essence of the Russian position. In response to a request from SEGODNYA's correspondent to provide the full text of the deputy minister's statement, however, Foreign Ministry employees said that so far they had no verbatim record of the speech themselves.

Even so, such statements like those cited by INTERFAX are already being heard from deputies of the Russian State Duma. On 28 March North Korea's main communist paper NODONG SINMUN printed, in the place where odes glorifying the "great leader" Kim Il-song are usually published, an "angry statement" by Viktor Ilyukhin, Sergey Baburin, Aleksandr Nevzorov, and other Russian parliamentarians about their "profound concern" over the aggravation of the situation in Korea (which is true in itself). They condemned not the North Korean blackmailing, however, but "certain U.S. circles advocating the so-called new world order and setting new unjustified demands on our traditional ally—the

DPRK—which only exacerbates the situation and arouses surprise and indignation." [passage omitted]

Perry Assessment of Korea Situation Cited

PM3103092194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Washington Fears North Korea Because It Does Not Understand Kim Il-song"]

[Text] Washington—U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry nas called the decision to prepare for war with the DPRK a "sensible precaution."

The DPRK, which has the oldest of the totalitarian Communist regimes still existing on the planet, says that it is prepared to return to the negotiating table, but it is flexing its muscles. According to U.S. intelligence information, leave has been canceled in the North Korean Army. Large units have been moved up to the border. Combat readiness is being reinforced by a propaganda campaign portraying war (provoked by U.S. imperialists, of course) as inevitable and victorious.

The U.S. defense secretary said that the bellicose speeches in Pyongyang do not signify an immediate danger of war. He announced a series of measures designed to discourage Pyongyang from attacking. Dictatorial regimes have their own logic, however. If Kim Il-song, North Korea's aged sovereign, takes it into his head that his autocratic rule is in danger, he might resort to any measures. U.S. officials have admitted that Pyongyang's logic is beyond them. "We have an extremely limited idea of what guides the North Korean Government in decisionmaking," the U.S. defense secretary said at a news conference.

Some analysts believe that on the threshold of a blockade Pyongyang might decide on a massive offensive by its army of more than 1 million men. Last week the official DPRK agency warned that UN sanctions would trigger a war.

U.S. troops have been based in the south of the peninsula since the early fifties, when the Korean war ended. There have been no substantial personnel reductions there, as distinct from all other operational large units abroad. Total personnel strength is equal to 37,000. The ROK Army has 650,000 men.

Neither Washington nor Seoul intends to increase the size of its armed forces in the immediate future. But the Pentagon has put on red alert its air forces designed for destroying tanks. It has been proposed that the ROK, a wealthy country with a positive trade balance with the United States, urgently acquire combat helicopters, radar trailers for artillery, and ABM systems from America.

The U.S. defense secretary said that none of the steps being taken by Washington and Seoul is dramatic in itself. Taken as a whole, however, they will make it possible to place tactical deterrents in a full state of readiness within a few days. The secretary plans to visit South Korea in mid-April, i.e. at approximately the time the Patriot missiles will be deployed there.

The Patriots made a name for themselves when they downed Scuds, Iraqi intermediate-range missiles, during the war in the Persian Gulf in 1990. The Scuds were based on obsolete Soviet models. North Korean specialists and enterprises were involved in modernizing them.

Russia is participating in the international inspection being conducted under UN auspices, and its special ties with the DPRK have vanished into the remote past. The recent expulsion from Moscow of several North Korean diplomats for attempts to entice Russian nuclear scientists has worsened relations.

China, which was the mainstay of the DPRK's ground forces at the time of the Korean war, now takes a cautious stand. To all appearances, Beijing, which is rigidly opposed to U.S. pressure on the question of human rights, does not intend to complicate still further its relations with Washington over Kim Il-song's nuclear ambitions, which are alien to it.

Vested Interests Said Behind Korea Crisis

PM3003260394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Golts article: "Korean Crisis Continues—That Someone Wants It To"]

[Text] The crisis now threatening the security of the whole Asian-Pacific region as well as the Korean Peninsula can be called anything but unexpected. Suspicions have been circulating for a few years to the effect that North Korea is secretly developing nuclear weapons. Complex diplomatic maneuvers were needed to get Pyongyang to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. And even then it did not prove possible to carry out the kind of inspections that would have completely dispelled International Atomic Energy Agency specialists' doubts. Direct talks between Pyongyang and Washington regarding the terms for such inspections and guarantees of the peninsula's becoming a nuclear-free zone have been under way for over a year. The United States was even willing to give up the "Team Spirit" maneuvers, which have always caused DPRK leaders particular irritation. But even then the inspectors say that obstacles were put in their way.

The upshot being that all the talks have been frustrated. The sides exchange the kind of statements that, if they are taken seriously, it may seem that North and South Korea have really reached the point of another war. The most striking thing is that the interests of the main parties to the conflict can be glimpsed increasingly clearly behind the seemingly determined actions to settle the crisis situation. Interests which only have an indirect bearing on an actual settlement, moreover.

Take the question of economic sanctions against the DPRK which have been discussed at such length. It turns out that people in Seoul and Tokyo are more afraid of these sanctions being introduced than people in Pyongyang. The DPRK's neighbors are afraid that these sanctions may destroy the already shaky North Korean economy. Which in turn might impel this country's leaders to take desperate adventurist action.

It also incidentally turns out that Japan is North Korea's second [biggest] trading partner after China. Every year billions of yen come from Koreans living in Japan to their relatives in the DPRK. Which then go back to Japan to buy the goods that the DPRK needs.

Washington may even reap certain dividends from this crisis. The United States has of late had problems with its allies in Asia. For instance, it has become increasingly difficult to extract concessions from Tokyo in the field of trade and the economy. The situation on the Korean Peninsula reminds both Tokyo and Seoul that their security depends on the U.S. military presence.

In principle what is happening is extremely useful for Chinese diplomacy. Beijing's relations with a number of states, primarily the United States, have deteriorated now owing to differences of approach to the problem of human rights. Washington is threatening to cancel its most-favored-nation status in trade. The Korean crisis clearly shows Beijing to be the key participant in a settlement, capable of influencing Pyongyang's position.

Finally, for all the risks involved in the game that Pyongyang is playing it may also bring dividends to it too. If DPRK leaders succeed in finding the requisite balance between promises to allow inspectors in on the one hand and threats on the other hand, they may obtain more than the cancellation of the maneuvers.

I will not say that this crisis was provoked specially. But the strange inertia in the attempts to settle it shows that almost every one of the active participants intends to use the situation in their own interests. Was that not why Russia's proposal to hold an international conference regarding the problems of the Korean peninsula's nuclear-free status viewed so coolly? After all, multilateral efforts do nonetheless limit certain states' freedom of maneuver.

U.S. Making It Clear 'Honeymoon Is Over'

PM3003150794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Vissarion Sisnev report: "Washington and 'Chicken Kiev.' Review of U.S.-Russian Relations Is Going on Behind the Scenes"]

[Text] Washington—Monday 28 March will go down in history as the day when, for the first time, a special briefing was organized in the White House for the Russian press corps accredited to the U.S. capital. Admittedly, this event was organized not by the principal occupant of the White House but by one of his staff, but it was a major event nonetheless. The briefing was organized to deal with a topic that is of utmost importance to us: The state of U.S.-Russian relations. On the whole the essence of what was said boils down to what Secretary of State Christopher stated on television last Sunday: Russia remains one of the administration's foreign policy priorities and it will offer every possible assistance in order to strengthen the democratic market road of development.

There is no reason to doubt that this is how things will be. Just as there is no doubt that relations between our countries are visibly becoming more strained or at any rate less unequivocal—a touch of what I would describe as rivalry has clearly crept in. Former President George Bush, a Republican, is being reproached because he was the first to have adopted a "Russia first" course, and because he arrived in Kiev after Moscow and "lectured" the Ukrainian leadership on the desirability of friendly cooperation with Russia. At the time the press christened this episode "Chicken Kiev," thus alluding to the second meaning that the word "chicken" has for Americans: weakness of character.

Eminent observers here believe that Clinton has not only inherited this "Chicken Kiev," he has recently started to "have another think about it." At the White House briefing the changes were expressed in the same mild wording that was used in Moscow: The "honeymoon" in U.S.-Russian relations is over. At the same time it was stressed that they certainly cannot be described as being in crisis. On this there is clear agreement with Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, who described the present stage as "mature partnership" in an article published in the THE NEW YORK TIMES.

But this is seemingly the only thing which the denizens of Washington's corridors of power agree with in Kozyrev's program article entitled "You Should Not Frighten Us." For example, Professor Perlmutter, the well-known political analyst and editor of the magazine STRATEGIC STUDIES, thought that "Minister Kozyrev has started to talk the language of the Cold War." He took extreme exception to the accusation that "new chauvinist banners are fluttering in the air in Washington" and that the United States is striving to achieve "world hegemony." Perlmutter says that he is "slightly irritated" by the minister's tendency to include areas of "the former Soviet empire" in his concept of "our national interests," that is to say Belorussia [Belarus], Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. And there is much else besides he does not like about A. Kozyrev's position.

It would be a small misfortune if just one expert or journalist were to get up and openly voice the question: "What precisely is the difference between 'national interests' according to the democrat Kozyrev on the one hand and the so-called reactionaries and ultranationalists on the other?" Especially as the specific accusations always boil down to the "unexpected interference" by Russia in

the Bosnian crisis, thanks to which NATO air power has not been used to launch strikes against the Serbs. But it is quite clear that in addition to this unexpected briefing for the Russian press, other briefings are also being organized in Washington—at a much higher level and with franker remarks on the very same topic. President Clinton spent one and a half hours chatting with representatives of ethnic minorities of East European origin, and one of the people who is closest to him—Deputy Secretary of State Talbott—has met with ambassadors of East European and Baltic countries.

Judging by information which somehow leaked out of these meetings, we must draw the unambiguous conclusion that a review of relations with Russia is going on behind the scenes. We are not talking about a return to the mores of nuclear and political confrontation. However, again and again we are hearing a term which dates from that unfortunate period, namely "containment." The State Department's guests were informed that up to now the United States has not paid enough attention to states bordering on Russia, but from now on all this will change because, according to informed U.S. colleagues, "the United States and the West cannot basically ignore the legitimate concerns of these countries which have been provoked by Russian expansionism."

It is also claimed that President Clinton has privately intimated that if Russian expansionist behavior spills over the borders of East European states, the United States will immediately change its position with regard to admitting East European countries to NATO. This is reported, for example, by the consistently well-informed R. Evans and R. Novak in THE WASHINGTON POST. They also believe that the pressure of public opinion polls is "drawing Clinton away from a love affair with Russia." They are referring to the fact that ethnic minorities, who put together constitute millions of voters, did not forgive Bush for his "chicken Kiev," and naturally they will not forgive the current President if he continues the "love affair." It should also be remembered that before breaking for the Easter vacation, the Senate adopted a resolution warning that the United States would rebuff "by all appropriate means" any Russian attempt to exert pressure on East Europe or the Baltic states.

The conclusion? It was summarized by Evans and Novak in yesterday's article: "Bill Clinton and Strobe Talbott are the last people in the world you would suspect of wanting to return to the Cold War. But they are unambiguously letting it be known that they no longer intend to overlook Russia's imperialist aspirations." Let us not get into an argument about how justified the term "imperialist" is. Let us simply take it as given that on this side of the Atlantic, Russian foreign policy is for one reason or another being presented in this manner. In print, with quotations from the highest authorities. It seems the U.S.-Russian "honeymoon" really is over. It is a pity, but, as they say, nothing lasts for ever and we must see things for what they really are.

U.S. Delegation Briefed on Economic Situation

LD2903141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—"The actions of the Russian leadership and the results of the country's economic development during the first three months of 1994 have confirmed the Russian Government's and president's determination to continue the course of reforms," Russian vice-premier and economics minister Aleksandr Shokhin said during the opening of a round-table here today. It is being attended by representatives of the Russian Government and business circles and a U.S. delegation led by Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown.

"Voiced during the past two months, including in the United States, were doubts about the Russian Government's readiness to continue the course of reforms," Shokhin said. "I think nobody has such doubts now."

"The rates of inflation in February and March," he noted, "were the lowest as compared to 1992 and 1993. The January upsurge of inflation can be largely explained by heightened inflationary expectations, provoked for purely political reasons. They were in no way linked with the government's economic efforts."

"The orientation of the Russian Government's reformist efforts," Shokhin stressed, "are confirmed by the recently reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is to grant Russia the second part of the envisaged system credit. The agreement with the IMF is important for us not only because a decision is to be adopted this April on granting Russia a 1.5 billion dollars credit. This sum, frankly speaking, is not decisive for our national economy's financial development and investment process," Shokhin noted. "It is important for us as proof of the international economic and financial community's readiness to back the Russian reforms."

On the other hand, according to Shokhin, the reached agreements should pave the way for an IMF decision to grant Russia a reserve credit, to an agreement with the Paris Club on the postponement of payments for the debts of the former USSR, which are to be made in 1994. Moreover, the World Bank is expected to pass a decision not later than June to grant the second rehabilitation credit to Russia, amounting to 600 million dollars.

The visit of the delegation of the U.S. Department of Commerce is proceeding at a time when trade exchange between the two countries is expanding. According to data received from the Russian Foreign Ministry (the Department for Economic Cooperation between the United States and Russia) Russia had a deficit of 2.2 billion dollars in trade with the United States in 1992. The export of Russian goods to the United States trebled

in 1993, growing from 693.9 millions to 2.05 billion U.S. Dollars. But a slight deficit remained, because Russia imported 2.2 billion dollars worth of goods from the United States that year.

According to a reference note, released by the U.S. Department of Commerce before Ronald Brown's visit, American exports to Russia reached three billion dollars in 1993, which is 40 per cent more than in 1992. American imports from Russia grew by 262 per cent and amounted to 1.7 billion dollars in 1993. Nevertheless, the sum total of American investments in Russia is still very small and amounts, according to some estimates, to only one billion dollars, which were invested by American companies based in Western Europe. Nevertheless, the United States believes there are great potentialities for capital investments in Russia, especially in the oil and gas industry.

Lobov Holds Talks With U.S. Officials

LD3103094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0140 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar—In a talk with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Oleb Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council, who is on a visit to the United States, described his meetings on Wednesday with high-ranking representatives of the American administration as frank and constructive.

The main focus of attention at the meeting with Nicholas Burns, special assistant to the U.S. President for affairs of Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia, was paid to getting to know the work of the National Security Council's Russian department, which he heads, Lobov noted.

We came to the conclusion that there is a need to establish permanent contacts and to reach agreement, and that Burns should pay a visit to Moscow in the future. We also handed the American side a draft memorandum on cooperation between the U.S. National Security Council and the Russian Security Council. The document establishes the machinery of cooperation and stipulates the periodicity of meetings and the field of questions to be discussed. Such questions should include topical international problems, peacemaking activities, and coordination of policy toward various countries and regions.

We then had a meeting with James Collins, ambassador at large for the new independent states, Lobov continued. We talked mainly about the prospects for cooperation between Russian analysts and American experts on Russia and other countries of the CIS working in the State Department, which should be aimed at joint study of the situation in Russia and other countries, and also the drafting of proposals for political leaders.

At a meeting with David Binney, acting director of the FBI, what interested us most were questions of combating organized crime, Lobov noted. Russia and the United States could expand cooperation in combating organized crime, the drug barons, economic crimes connected with evasion of taxes and customs duties, and illegal exportation of goods. I think such cooperation will be of benefit to both countries.

Trade, Economic Cooperation Agreements Signed With U.S.

LD3003152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Irina Bolshova and Vladimir Kikilo]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Russia and the United States signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation in Moscow on Wednesday.

Russian Vice-Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin and visiting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown signed a joint statement giving the two countries access to each other's markets. Brown and Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov signed a memorandum to establish American business centres in Russia, a joint statement to improve terms of cooperation in medical industry and a document on the American-Russian Business Development Committee.

"We attach great importance to the visit to Russia by a representative U.S. delegation led by Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown," Davydov said. "Two days is not enough to solve all our questions which have piled up since the cold war era. But we have moved along this path. This is proved by the documents we have signed. They allow our trade and economic ties to develop more successfully. Additionally, we discussed issues which still impede our cooperation, including flaws in Russian laws and the difficulties which remain in the American trade laws with respect to Russian manufacturers," he said.

Davydov said that American colleagues understand the need of lifting trade restrictions on Russian goods and assured him that the U.S. will take concrete steps in this direction. [sentence as received]

The committee plans to hold its next meeting in Washington in June 1994 to discuss large American investments in Russia. "We have pledged to provide maximum state support for these projects. This particularly concerns the Sakhalin-2 project and the development of the Timano-Pechora oil deposit," the minister said.

Another key issue do be discussed in June will be the removal of barriers hampering Russian-American trade and economic cooperation.

U.S. Bank To Provide $1 Billion Credit

LD3003133894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Russia can count on an additional $1 Bn [Billion] credit from the American Exxim Bank. The fact was disclosed in an exclusive interview for Interfax by the Russian Deputy Prime-Minister for Economics Aleksandr Shokhin.

Earlier the American bank agreed with the Russian side on a $2 Bn credit most of which was to be spent on imports of American equipment and technologies.

According to the official the additional credit will be given at the same terms and be used to purchase oil and gas equipment and modernize Russian industrial facilities which possess a high export potential "which can guarantee the repayment of the credits," Shokhin stressed.

He also said that while the Russian government is taking steps to protect foreign investments from political risks, it is also inclined to apply stricter requirements to foreign investors.

"Even now the offers of foreign investments under government guarantees are two times greater than the amount we can actually use. Some banks put forward as a condition of investment the submission of detailed financial and statistical reports about certain companies for the past ten years. I doubt whether we can and should do that," Shokhin said.

On increasing the country's export potential he said that the Ministry of Economics is determined to work for the abolition of all export quotas. In his opinion Russian manufacturers need the removal of quotas on oil products the domestic demand for which has sharply dropped, as well as the gradual reduction of quotas on crude oil. "Otherwise we will really be forced to close down productive oil-fields." Shokhin also said that the export quotas for the second quarter of this year can serve as an indication of the efforts of his ministry in this direction.

Churkin Warns Against Breaches of Croatian Cease-Fire

LD3103141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—The Russian president's envoy for former Yugoslavia, Vitaliy Churkin, described as "a great political recklessness" possible violations of the agreement signed in Zagreb yesterday on a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops and weapons from the delimitating line in Croatian areas under U.N. control.

Addressing on Thursday a news conference in Moscow, Churkin gave his assessment of chances that the agreements reached between Croatia and Serb Krajina will be observed.

The Russian diplomat described the latest document signed by the warring factions as "a special case" in contrast to previous agreements which had been frequently broken. This time, Churkin stressed, "Russia, the United States, the European Union and U.N. stand behind the parties to the agreement." Thus, "the party daring to violate the accord would challenge not only the other side in the conflict but also to these key members of the world community," Russia's envoy noted.

Furthermore, the point at issue at the moment is an all-round agreement, "rather a complicated military-technical document on disengagement of troops and weapons," which contains "quite definite, if not ideal, provisions" about U.N. supervision over its implementation, Churkin emphasised.

Commenting on the content of the agreement, the Russian diplomat said it comprised not only the text of the document itself, but also 35 detailed maps signed by the warring factions. "There should not be any room for uncertainty as to what the sides should do to fulfil the agreements," Churkin pointed out.

Therefore, Churkin stressed, he is inclined to believe that the agreement will be observed. However, he did not rule out the possiblity of "certain roughness," especially at the most difficult initial stage of troop disengagement."

Notes U.S. Role in Reaching Accord

MK3103083094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Yelena Shchedrunova report under the "Balkans" rubric: "A New Russian Success in the Former Yugoslavia. Cease-fire Agreement Signed Between Croatia and Serbian Krajina"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's special representative in the talks on the former Yugoslavia, who returned to Moscow on the evening of 30 March, has told your SEGODNYA correspondent that the document signed gives all reasons to state that the threat of a military conflict between the Serbs and the Croats has been brought to nil. [passage omitted]

The next step in the efforts to settle the conflict between Croatia and Serbian Krajina will be talks on the resumption of economic ties and communications between regions that are scheduled to be held in two weeks or so, probably at the same location. Discussion of the most crucial matter—Serbian Krajina's status—was postponed indefinitely. Vitaliy Churkin believes that the process of decisionmaking on the subject should not be rushed; he pointed out, however, that both Russia and the West adhere to the principle of Croatia's territorial

integrity. But he is "certain that solutions are possible that would not be detrimental to either side." [passage omitted]

Vitaliy Churkin emphasized that the United States, the EC, and the participants in the international conference have had a significant role to play in achieving this result. Although the meeting was sponsored and organized by Russia, which later invited other participants to join it, only the thorough coordination in the actions of all mediators made it possible to make sure that the agreement was signed. Vitaliy Churkin pointed out in particular that U.S. and Russian diplomats, who had previously made repeated statements about the coincidence of their views on the Balkan conflict, demonstrated this coincidence in practice for the first time. The experience of the Zagreb talks, he stressed, may also be used for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Terms Cease-Fire Success for Russia

LD3003204294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Video report by correspondent O. Safiulin, including recorded remarks by Vitaliy Churkin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, in Zagreb on 30 March; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Talks between representatives of Croatia and Serb Krajina went on for 17 hours at the Russian Embassy in Zagreb. [passage omitted]

[Safiulin] Also, today in an interview, Vitaliy Churkin said the agreement was a specific success of Russian diplomacy.

[Churkin] We organized these talks both politically and technically. We brought the parties together. We involved U.S. efforts in this. Representatives of the European Union and the United Nations organization were working together with us. [passage omitted]

[Safiulin] Churkin also said:

[Churkin] For the first time, if not legally, then politically, the guarantors of the agreement are Russia, the United States, and the European Union.

[Safiulin] To a question on who played the main role in the signing of the agreement, the deputy minister replied:

[Churkin] There were neither competition nor grudges between us. We worked very harmoniously together. No agreement would have been reached if we had not acted from harmonious, joint political and negotiating positions.

[Safiulin] The next meeting between the Serbs and Croats with the aim of discussing economic matters is planned in two weeks' time, probably at the Russian Embassy again.

Editorial Views Success for Russian Mediation

PM3103100394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Maksim Yusin report: "Serbs and Croats Agree on Cease-Fire With Moscow Mediating"]

[Text] On the morning of 30 March, after grueling 18-hour talks in the Russian Embassy in Zagreb, the Croatian Government and representatives of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Serbian Krajina" signed a cease-fire agreement.

Russian diplomacy celebrates a new success. Without Moscow's mediation the truce between the Serbs and Croats would probably not have happened. The efforts over many months of Vitaliy Churkin, President Yeltsin's special representative, have finally borne fruit. "The agreement signed today is the first step toward settling the conflict and normalizing Serb-Croat relations," Churkin told journalists on the talks' completion.

The truce comes into effect at 0900 hours on 5 April. By this time mortars and antiaircraft guns must be withdrawn 10 km from the demarcation line, and tanks and heavy artillery must be withdrawn 20 km. Before 8 April all Serb and Croat formations will have retreated 1 km into their own territory, giving up advanced positions to UN "Blue Helmets" and EU [European Union] observers.

By signing the cease-fire agreement the Serbs and Croats have closed the age on a bloody period in their history when they were in a state of war for two and a half years. As a result of the hostilities around 10,000 people died and one-fourth of Croatian territory is occupied by Serbs and Yugoslav Army subunits.

The cease-fire treaty will undoubtedly make further talks between Zagreb and "Serbian Krajina" easier, although by all accounts they will again require Russian mediation. The main task is to define the status of Serb areas in Croatia. As of today the sides' positions are diametrically opposed. The Krajina authorities are demanding separation from Croatia, but Zagreb is not even entertaining this notion, offering Serbs broad autonomy but as part of a united state.

The Serbian leaders' separatist sentiments are supported by few people in the world. The vast majority of UN members recognized Croatia with its original borders. The United States, EU, and Russia with certain reservations are inclined toward the settlement option proposed by Zagreb. In this situation much will depend on Belgrade: If Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic persuades his fellow countrymen in Croatia to compromise and not to seek separation at any price the conflict could be finally settled, and Yugoslavia will obtain additional grounds for demanding the lifting of sanctions.

For their part the Croatian authorities, who are interested as never before in solving the problem as quickly as possible, could agree to certain concessions. The truce

with the Serbs will enable the country's economy to switch back to a peacetime track, will ensure the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees to their homes, and will decrease social tension. Croatia, which before the war had the fourth-highest number of foreign tourists in Europe, will get the chance to redevelop its tourist business, which, according to expert estimates, could bring the country up to $5 billion a year.

Diplomat Carrying Secrets Disappears in Thailand

LD3003204494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] RIA-Novosti agency reports that a Russian diplomat, Igor Makeyev, has disappeared in mysterious circumstances in Thailand. He has allegedly disappeared with a portable computer containing secret information. The Thai police believe Makeyev has either secretly left the country or is no longer alive. The Russian Embassy has so far refrained from commenting, but it has noted that any information in the possession of an employee of the consular department could only be concerned with that department.

Search for Missing Diplomat Under Way

LD3103151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin has called for stepping up the search for Russian diplomat Igor Makeyev who went missing in Bangkok on March 22.

Karasin said that the Russian Embassy and Thai officials have taken the necessary steps to investigate into the circumstances of the diplomat's disappearance and organise a search for him. However, "the search has been unsuccessful so far," he added.

"The news about Makeyev's disappearance was a blow to his next of kin. They were shocked by it," Karasin said.

"The feeling of sympathy and humaneness prompt us to take urgent and more active steps to find the missing diplomat," he said.

Chernomyrdin Leaves on Two-Day Official Visit to Hungary

LD3103052294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0450 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Mar—During his two-day official visit to the Hungarian republic, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, will focus his main attention on boosting joint efforts to enhance the effectiveness of trade and economic relations between Russia and Hungary. The Russian prime minister left for Budapest early this morning. He will meet there Hungarian President Arpad Goncz and Prime Minister Peter Boross.

According to the visit's program, Russian-Hungarian intergovernment talks will also take place this afternoon. On Friday Viktor Chernomyrdin will take part in the signing ceremony of the package of agreements, will visit the Ikarus works, and will hold a news conference.

Chernomyrdin Arrives in Budapest

LD3103073394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0722 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Budapest March 31 TASS—Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin arrived in Hungary on an official visit on Thursday.

At the Budapest Airport, the Russian premier was welcomed by Hungarian Foreign Ministry Secretary of State Andras Kelemen, Hungarian Ambassador to Russia Gyergy Nanovscki, Russian Ambassador to Hungary Ivan Aboymov and other officials.

Chernomyrdin and members of his delegation headed from the airport for the parliament building where there will be a welcoming ceremony for the Russian high guest.

Interviewed on Trade Relations

LD3003201194 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report on interview with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by correspondent Gabor Izbeki, on the eve of his visit to Budapest, in Moscow on 30 March; Chernomyrdin speaks in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Izbeki] The Russian prime minister is basically satisfied with the development of Hungarian-Russian economic ties and trusts that his visit will further boost them. [passage omitted] Viktor Chernomyrdin sees no serious problem in the significant difference in value between the Russian and Hungarian deliveries.

[Chernomyrdin] It has various reasons. I would not hold either side responsible for that, and I would certainly not blame either of them. The transitional, semi-market nature of the Russian economy has of course a considerable influence on this. [passage omitted] The creation of the legal basis of a market economy is now taking place in Russia. The bilateral agreements to be signed in Budapest, for instance, will partially serve this purpose. Economic processes cannot be changed all at once. However, I am certain that the imbalance in Hungarian-Russian exports and imports will gradually decrease.

[Izbeki] The issue of debts inherited from the Soviet era is also a subject matter in which our countries are ahead of everyone else. The Russian Government is determined to settle this debate once and for all and as soon as possible. Viktor Chernomyrdin answered my question regarding this. He welcomes the Hungarian proposal that part of the still outstanding debt of about $800 million would be invested here in Russia. The details, of course, are yet to be discussed, but in theory, it is supported. Thus, I see no problem regarding this. The debt issue can be resolved, he added. Russia is a reliable partner in energy deliveries as well, he said.

[Chernomyrdin] We undertake responsibility for what we have promised and agreed on. [passage omitted] As far as our neighbors are concerned, in my view, Ukraine has to handle this matter in a civilized manner, as it is customary in the world. The diversion or tapping of deliveries, or similar non-business methods are unacceptable. Russia and the recipient European countries expect nothing less from the transit countries than to fulfill their business obligations.

[Izbeki] Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has been Russia's prime minister since December 1992, is of the view that the Russian reforms, the economy's transformation, could not have moved forward any faster, more successfully and less painfully than they did. [passage omitted]

Concerning the power struggle within the Russian top leadership, Viktor Chernomyrdin denied the allegation that he was striving for greater power than what he currently has.

Deems Hungary 'Promising' Economic Partner

LD3103143694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin, Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Budapest March 31 TASS—Russia views Hungary as a promising economic and trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe. The widening of commercial and economic ties that has begun now should become a stable tendency. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said this at Hungarian-Russian intergovernmental negotiations in Budapest on Thursday. The negotiations of the delegations in an enlarged composition was preceded by a one-on-one conversation between the Russian prime minister and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Boross.

Special attention was given at the talks to the development of cooperation between the two countries under the principles of genuine equality, trust and respect for each other's interests, ITAR-TASS learned from sources in the Russian delegation. Chernomyrdin and Boross informed each other of the political and economic situation in their countries and the pace of transformations and reforms.

During the exchange of opinions of the development of bilateral relations and the implementation of arrangements reached at the summit level during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Hungary in 1992, the participants in the talks pointed to the need to step up joint efforts, to raise the level of commercial and economic cooperation in accordance with the potential of the two countries, to restore on new market principles traditional economic ties and to set in motion new financial and economic mechanisms.

The Russian side raised the question of the expediency of concluding a free trade agreement between the two countries, as well as encouragement of mutual investment, establishment of cooperation introducion and of direct ties between enterprises and regions.

Topical international problems, including the situation in Europe and processes of European integration, have also been discussed at the talks. Positively assessing the level of interaction between Russia and Hungary in foreign policy, Chernomyrdin said that the ensurance of stability and consolidation of security in Europe should become the main tendency of that interaction.

Russia proposes the creation of an integrated European security system on a basis of cooperation and equality regarding the consolidation of cardinal political role of CSCE, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a top priority.

During the negotiations the Russian side noted that NATO's initiative "Partnership for Peace" had become an important step in shaping universal European structure of military-political cooperation.

A meeting of the Hungarian-Russian intergovernmetnal commission of commercial and economic cooperation was held in the parliament building on the same day. Bela Kadar, Hungarian minister of international economic relations, said in a brief remark after the meeting that ways to pay off Russia's trading debt to Hungary loomed large in the debate. An arrangement on problems discussed has in principle been reached.

Chernomyrdin Meets Polish Sejm Officials in Moscow

LD3003213294 Warsaw TVP Television Second Program Network in Polish 2000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia Network]

[Text] Economic cooperation has dominated the talks between Sejm Speaker Jozef Oleksy and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The meeting between the delegation of the Polish parliament and the head of the Russian government was decided at the last moment.

[Correspondent Wojciech Nomejko] The expected half-hour talk was extended to over an hour. Both interlocuters considered ways to increase Polish investment in the Russian market.

[Begin Oleksy recording] I am very satisfied with the expressions of readiness that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin declared regarding close contacts. We told each other: Poland can, at the last resort, manage without Russia, Russia without Poland on the whole certainly so, but why? [end recording]

[Nomejko] Prime Minister Chernomyrdin declared a readiness for an economic rapprochement between Russia and Poland. Speaker Jozef Oleksy expressed the hope that after the talk today and after the visit of the Russian prime minister to Poland, which will take place in May, decisions will be made to stimulate the economy in Poland. There is a chance that the Polish food processing and construction industries will regain their former positions in the Russian market. They also discussed issues of mutual indebtedness and of the conctruction of gas pipelines.

To be sure, the visit of the Polish parliamentarians was to have been solely an informational one, but the meetings with the representatives of the highest authorities of the Russian Federation, the prime minister, and probably the president, mark out the political character of the visit.

Sejm Speaker Says PFP Should Not Harm Ties

LD3103092994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Speaking at the Russian State Duma today, Polish Sejm Speaker Jozef Oleksy said that different approaches to the NATO Partnership for Peace [PFP] program should not lead to disagreements between the two countries.

In Oleksy's words, Poland is against any security concept that does not take account of Russia's interests. A policy of isolating Moscow is irrational. At the same time the Sejm speaker emphasized that Poland wants NATO membership, in which it sees a basis for strategic security. Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov in his turn thinks that the NATO PFP plan pushes the European CSCE security system into the background. In theory, Yushenkov noted, all European countries should have equal rights in building collective security.

Sejm Speaker Meets With Rybkin

LD3103111794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—"We finally come to realise that separation of powers does not mean their confrontation," Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the State Duma, said on Thursday during a meeting with marshal of the Polish Sejm, Jozef Oleksy. Rybkin said that the drafting of a document on national concord is an example of practical interaction of branches of power.

The speaker of the Lower House of the Federal Assembly believes it would be naive to think that the present Duma will be able to provide full legislative backing for transformations in Russia. Nevertheless, it is possible to lay down the groundwork for fruitful operation of the next composition of the Lower House, he said.

Rybkin said some Russian MPs suggest that the term of the present State Duma be extended for another four years. The speaker of the Lower House said this can become possible only if the process of national reconciliation develops successfully. There is, above all, interaction between the president and the parliament. "Then the people would be able to express their will, which would be represented in a constitutional extention of the Duma's powers," Rybkin said.

Dwelling on European interparliamentary ties, the speaker of the State Duma expressed perplexity with the fact that Russia has not yet been admitted into the Council of Europe as a full-fledged member.

In his turn, the marshal of the Polish Sejm expressed satisfaction with successfully developing cooperation between Russian and Polish MPs and declared for its further widening. Jozef Oleksy heads a delegation of members of the Polish Sejm that arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Duma. The delegation includes representatives of the main factions of the Polish Sejm.

Official Views Ratification of Baykonur Agreement

LD3003150894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The leasing agreement on the Baykonur space center that Moscow and Alma-Ata [Almaty] recently signed may be ratified in the next four weeks and take effect thereafter, a senior official of the Russian Space Agency [RSA] told Interfax.

He said the deal would enable Russia to go ahead with its space programs for the next 20 years. It will also be able to comply with its obligations to maintain and develop the facility.

More importantly, he said, the two sides had agreed that the facility should include all of its infrastructures, the adjacent town of Leninsk and related property. The official said that General Aleksey Shumilin would remain in charge of the space center.

On Russia's payment of an annual $115 Mn to Kazakhstan, he said this would be done in the form of compensation as part of account settling between Moscow and Alma-Ata. The deal brings an end to the dispute over the future of a launch pad for Zenit boosters. Earlier, Ukraine and Kazakhstan were planning to sign a separate deal because of Kiev's claim to the facility.

However, Moscow challenges this, saying the Zenit booster is 80 percent Russian contribution, the RSA

official said. All the same, he said, it will make no sense to turn down cooperation with Ukraine in the development of that environmentally safe and advanced booster.

"We will continue to work together with Ukraine as before, he said, but Russia is not going to cede the booster to Kiev."

"Russia will cooperate with Ukraine and other CIS states within the framework of the CIS space program," he said.

'Both Sides Win'

PM3003140594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 First Edition pp 1, 6

[ITAR-TASS report followed by Yuriy Konorov commentary: "Baykonur's Future Decided"—first three paragraphs are ITAR-TASS report]

[Text] The changes made to the agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan on the status of and conditions for using the Baykonur cosmodrome and the city of Leninsk in literally the last few hours before the ceremony at which the two countries' presidents signed it cannot be described as significant. Moreover, the document preserves the points on which the Russian side in particular was insisting: a lease period of 20 years with a further 10-year extension, and agreement for Russian citizens—servicemen of the Russian Federation Military Space Forces—to stay at the cosmodrome and service it. The only change is that the rent payments are $115 million a year [as published].

The problems over Baykonur's status in fact started last summer, when Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev put forward the idea of turning Baykonur into an international spaceport.

Both sides win from the Baykonur lease arrangement. Kazakhstan cannot maintain Baykonur on its own: It has neither the money nor the specialists for this at present. And Russia would be deprived of a base for launching heavy carrier rockets over the next few years while it establishes a new cosmodrome.

[Konorov] Now that all the worries are over, we can look back and recall the circumstances under which the negotiations took place. The politicians, economists, and legal specialists spent a long time preparing for them; and, to give them credit, they prepared well: Every figure was checked down to the last cent (given that the cost of the rent is in dollars—115 million a month) [as published]. It emerges that the Russian specialists, basing themselves on international experience and Kazakhstan legislation, insisted that the real cost of the lease should be $80 million. The Kazakh side took no account of these arguments. The essence of their claims boiled down to the statement: "But we need 150 million." The negotiations were going badly until a "judgment of Solomon" was found. The two sums would be added together and then divided in half. The so-called "arithmetic mean" came to 115 million.

In addition, an understanding was reached that a significant proportion of this sum would be paid "by barter" in the form of all kinds of services.

How firm is this understanding? Like Russia, Kazakhstan now has certain obligations to foreign partners to carry out international space programs. The influence of international public opinion and the prestige of space powers are arguments of considerable weight in this protracted dispute.

Kozyrev, Kyrgyz Leader Discuss Ties

LD3003234894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar—Problems relating to the development of Russian-Kyrgyz relations and the peacekeeping activities of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in Nagornyy Karabakh were considered today at a meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Medetkan Sherimkulov, chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Council and head of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly peacemaking group on Nagornyy Karabakh.

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, the head of Kyrgyzstan's parliament stated that the Interparliamentary peacemaking group is now engaged in preparing for a meeting of Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Nagornyy Karabakh parliamentarians in Bishkek. He expressed the hope that success will be achieved in organizing a frank exchange of opinions between the heads of the parliaments of these states. According to M. Sherimkulov he will tomorrow be flying to Baku and Yerevan and afterwards will visit Stepanakert, where specific dates will be agreed for the meeting.

"I should like to hope that the end result of our activities will be peace. People are tired of war and of the fact that the number of refugees is growing. Not one state gains from this," M. Sherimkulov emphasized. "If we managed to give help and support in bringing the positions of the warring sides closer, we should consider our mission useful," he said.

As a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman noted in a conversation with journalists, the Russian foreign policy department fully supports the intention and desire of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly peacemaking group to take what part it can in the process of settling the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh. According to him the Russian Foreign Ministry "is working in close contact and is ready to provide expert assistance in the work that this group is performing." The Russian Foreign Ministry considers that this group "can play a special role, since parliamentarians can

promote the establishment of an appropriate atmosphere in which it would be possible to adopt the agreement on which the executive structures are now working."

According to the high-ranking Russian diplomat the main aim now is "to bring the sides together and to create an appropriate atmosphere for the adoption of an agreement on halting the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh." This agreement has been worked out in principle. Each side involved in the conflict has its own approaches and probably much more effort will have to be made for it to be signed, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Political Issues

Yeltsin 'Basically' Approves Civic Accord Agreement

LD3003150094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] In a Wednesday interview for Interfax a high-ranking official in the Yeltsin administration assumed that the final text of the agreement on accord in Russia will be ready in about 10 days. He said the working draft of the agreement submitted to Boris Yeltsin has been basically approved by the president.

Interfax has not received confirmation of the information from official sources. At the office of the presidential advisor Satarov our reporter was told they do not know "the full reaction" of Yeltsin to the working document.

The official who was involved in drafting the agreement confirmed that one of the main provisions renounces the introduction of destabilizing constitutional amendments, in particular concerning the procedure and time of presidential elections. In keeping with the draft, the organizers of rallies and demonstrations shall assume the responsibility for the peaceful nature of the actions. The draft also calls for refraining from making evaluations of the 1991 attempted coup and developments in October 1993 in a manner which hightens public confrontation.

The official found unrealistic the idea expressed by certain creators of the draft to pass a special law to better control the observation of the agreement by its sides (the president, government, parliament, trade unions, political parties and public movements).

Still he admitted that the mechanisms provided for by the draft rely primarily on the moral capacity of those who are going to sign it. Under the draft a permanent conciliatory committee will be formed. If the agreement is violated it will call for the resignation or dissolution of the person or group in question through the media.

In the opinion of the administration member, the document should be widely discussed after the president approves its text. He spoke of the possibility of a debate at a regular session of Public Chamber under the president due on April 9. He said it would be useful to involve some organizations which have gained a reputation for being extremist in the work on the agreement.

Yeltsin Hands Rybkin Civic Accord Memorandum

LD3103121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1122 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 31 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting took place in the Kremlin today between Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. This is reported by the president's press service. The two discussed a broad range of economic and political questions and ways of resolving a number of the country's urgent problems, the most important of which is to achieve mutual understanding, and future cooperation between the various political forces in Russia.

The president handed Ivan Rybkin the text of the memorandum on national accord, with the understanding that this document, which is important for the fate of the country, will be comprehensively studied and examined by the deputies of the lower chamber of Parliament.

Shakhray Believes Civic Accord Can Be Given Legal Form

LD3003134294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Minister for Nationalities Sergey Shakhray believes that the agreement on civic accord in Russia can be given a legal form. In a Tuesday interview for Interfax he expressed the opinion that the State Duma can pass it as a law to be approved by the Council of the Federation and signed by the president.

In Shakhray's opinion, initially the agreement on civic peace should be signed by parliamentary groups and leading political parties. He is also convinced that if the work on the document is done correctly, the process will be joined by all political forces. "Parties and movements refusing to sign it will remain outside the political process," the minister said.

Shakhray sees the greatest danger in the possibility that several documents will appear. "If the right, left and center each write their own agreements and start a competition of documents, this can lead to a war of peace charters," he remarked.

Shakhray assumed that after studying the draft agreement on accord the president will submit the document to the parliament and government. He did not rule out the possibility that the draft can be published for a public debate.

In Shakhray's opinion, the agreement should set the rules of political activities for two years. "During this time we should concentrate on efforts to overcome the economic crisis," he said.

Shakhray is the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord.

Democratic Russia Seeks Change to Civic Accord

LD3003175594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Coordinating Council of the Democratic Russia movement has sent a letter to President Yeltsin voicing its support for the president-initiated policy of civil accord.

The letter says, however, that the memorandum on civil peace between the main political forces should be amended. It should include a mechanism for ensuring all

the signatories abide by it. The adoption of a law banning fascism and extremism by the Federal Assembly might provide such a guarantee.

The Democratic Russia movement also insists that representatives of political forces which violate Russian laws, provoke mass disturbances, instigate national enmity and advocate war and violence, should not be allowed to sign this memorandum.

Explosion Near Yeltsin Residence 'Ordinary Crime'

LD3003183294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—An explosion which occurred in the Osenny Boulevard in the vicinity of a new residence of the Russian president "does not have a political colouring", ITAR-TASS was told at the Russian president's press service. "This is an ordinary crime," the press service said, relying on a conclusion made by competent interior officials.

At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, an explosive device went off in a Zhiguli car parked in the yard of a house located in the Osenny Boulevard, 12, block 2. The explosion killed a driver of the "Oton" trade company who lived there, and "a criminal boss" was injured. The criminal was hospitalized. Two more girls, aged 8 and 10, were injured. The explosion was presumably targeted at the "criminal element", interior officials said.

The incident occurred at a distance of one kilometer from a new city residence of the Russian president. Neither Boris Yeltsin, nor his family are living in the new house yet.

Yeltsin May Feel 'Duty' To Run Again

PM3103161594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 1

[Vasiliy Kononenko article: "Yeltsin May Run in 1996 Presidential Election"]

[Text] Your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told this sensational news in confidence by the Kremlin on the evening of 30 March. And a day later when asked "Is Boris Yeltsin ruling himself out of the election campaign?" Press Secretary V. Kostikov unequivocally told journalists:

"I do not think that the president will leave the bridge unless he is confident that the helm is in safe hands."

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent learned that the press secretary had a conversation with the president the day before to obtain explanations ahead of his meeting with journalists regarding the main problems worrying society today. Needless to say, they included the subject of the presidential election campaign. Here is a significant detail: The president's aides put around a dozen newspapers on his desk every day. More often than not he only looks at the headlines, the leads, because he does not have time for anything else. But the president did want to read in full the article published in IZVESTIYA 29 March entitled "Boris Yeltsin Launches Election Campaign," since he did not trust his services' reports and summaries. Here is his response (according to his press secretary).

The first signs of political peace or at least truce have emerged in society. The idea of a political accord among various social forces is beginning to take shape. It would be rash to turn Russia into a boxing ring. There are two years to go until the presidential election. Election fever would fuel the situation. A political breathing space is what is needed, a moratorium on political battles.

V. Kostikov also hinted at a possible way of B. Yeltsin's joining the election campaign. "Analysts forecasting Yeltsin's departure from the political scene in 1996," he said, "are formulating schemes based on the theoretical party structure in Russia today. At the same time they are becoming distracted from the most important thing—the population, the voters. Can we rule out the idea of large groups of Russians nominating Yeltsin to stand for another term? In that case Yeltsin would naturally have to make a decision. And that decision would depend on his personal wishes, concept of duty, and political responsibility...."

The press secretary did not shirk the question of a possible presidential election victory for Rutskoy or Zhirinovskiy. "The very idea of that being possible dramatically reduces the standard of political ethics in society," he said. "A whole series of their statements are outside the law. Implementing these appeals could be disastrous for the country and the population. You cannot inure the population to the idea that a man with the mentality and vocabulary of a street hooligan can end up head of a great country. Yeltsin's team is confident that the president will not surrender Russia to these people."

He dwelt in detail on the content of the Accord on Civil Peace, which is being drafted and which the president is consistently forcing through despite certain opposition forces' skeptical attitude to it. According to the press secretary, the eight-page text contains a preamble and the following sections:

—the political life of society;

—regional policy;

—nationalities policy;

—socioeconomic policy;

—the security of citizens and the state;

—integrity, ethics, morality, and culture;

—the conditions and mechanisms for the fulfillment of the agreement;

—the responsibility of the signatories to the document.

Presidential aides G. Satarov and Yu. Baturin, as well as representatives of the parliament, government, and public organizations, have taken part in drafting the Accord on Civil Peace. The press secretary stressed that the sides did not seek compromises in the field of ideology because that is impossible. The task was to highlight those points that would act as a reliable base for cooperation among all forces in order to ensure peace in the country. Efforts must be concentrated on specific issues, for instance a contentious government decision or the threat of wholesale strikes, etc. The document makes provision for the creation of a conciliation commission. But the president is not happy with the text at the moment. He thinks it ponderous and reminiscent of a constitution. There will be consultations over the next few days with the future parties to the agreement.

It is already known that the president has had conversations on this issue with V. Shumeyko, who voiced a positive opinion of the draft document. Regrettably, the State Duma will probably give it, if not a hostile reception, then at least a very critical one. Nevertheless, no matter what the result of these efforts, one thing is important. The whole range of political views and party plans will be manifested during the consultations.

Paper Defends Publication

LD3103084694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA today published a statement by the Russian Federation Committee for the Press officially warning OBSHCHAYA GAZETA that its actions are regarded as a deliberate attempt to destabilize society and undermine the constitutional power.

Let me remind you that this refers to the recent publication of the scandalous version No. 1 of a coup d'etat allegedly being planned.

In reply to these accusations, Yegor Yakovlev, the founder of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA today told our television agency:

[Begin Yakovlev recording] [Video shows Yakovlev seated in office] If the Committee for the Press has not read OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, which stated that it was publishing a document known to be false and proving why it was false [pauses]... This is the first point.

Second, there is Article 58 of the law on the press, or rather on the mass media, which says that any attempt to hamper the publishing of information will be subject to disciplinary, administrative, and criminal punishment. I do not know who signed this statement, whether it was Mr. (Mironov) or someone else, but when Mr. (Mironov) accused OBSHCHAYA GAZETA of warning society against this provocation—and it was the first to publish this and was punished for doing it—in this way we are being told: If you learn about another provocation, keep quiet. When a doctor tells his patient that he is ill, there is no point in hurling accusations at the doctor; similarly, this was a sick document produced by a sick society. We just demonstrated this.

Another thing—otherwise it would be too sad to talk about these attacks and persecutions. I recall the time when MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI was being persecuted in about the same way, with the same zeal, and more or less by the same organizations, though by different newspapers - yet now they say that MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI was always right. [end recording]

Lawsuit Filed Against Paper for Coup Warning

LD3003215394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1449 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Solodova]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar—The office of the Russian procurator general has instituted criminal proceedings in connection with the publishing of libellous material in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA with regard to a coup d' etat allegedly being planned in Russia.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the information and public relations center of the procurator general's office that the case requires thorough investigation and that the individuals who will be called to account for this "sensational" report cannot be named.

Yeltsin Endorses Program for Interaction of Authorities

LD3103084494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday endorsed by his decree a programme for interaction of Russian state authorities in the area of cooperation on information law with authorities of member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This was reported by the Russian president's press office. The programme was submitted to the president by the Russian Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS Member-Countries, the Foreign Ministry, the federal agency for government liaison and information at the russian president, the committee for information policies at the president, the state-legal agency at the president. The programme has been coordinated in a preliminary way in the federation assembly of Russia.

The federal agency for government liaison and information at the president has been instructed to speed up the work to create a Russian automated system for the ensurance of information law, implementaion of laws, education in the legal area as an inalienable part of

interstate system of law information in the CIS and to ensure the implementation on the first section of this system in the first six months of 1995.

Supreme Court Urges Trial of Yanayev, Tizyakov To Proceed

LD3003151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] On Wednesday the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Court accepted the protest of the Prosecutor General against the closure of the criminal case of members of the State Emergency Committee in August 1991 Gennadiy Yanayev and Aleksandr Tizyakov in connection with the amnesty. Earlier at the trial of leaders of the abortive coup their cases were separated from the rest and united.

The Presidium believes the case was closed in violation of the law and should be sent to court again.

Poll Says Chernomyrdin Most Influential Political Figure

LD3003134094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1307 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was the most influential political figure in Russia last February, according to a survey conducted by the Vox Populi public opinion service (its head Professor Boris Grushin is a member of the presidential council). President Yeltsin who headed the list last December was the second.

The rating was determined by 50 experts: editors of leading publications and prominent political analysts.

The composition of the fist five changed considerably compared with January: Yegor Gaydar, Vladimir Zhirinovsky and Vladimir Shumeyko dropped out. Their places were taken accordingly by the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the Chairman of the Central Bank Victor Gerashchenko.

The greatest change in rating happened to the Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin who skyrocketed from position 98-99 to 16-16 which can be accounted to his key role in Russian diplomacy in Bosnia. The Tatar President Mintimer Shaymyev moved from 27th to 10th place which is attributed to the signing of the agreement between Russia and Tatarstan.

The other politicians whose influence grew included Defence Minister Pavel Grachev (8), presidential national security advisor Yuriy Baturin (12), the Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik (25), the secretary of the Security Council Oleg Lobov, the chief of the External Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov.

Union Warns Yeltsin Over Reduced TV, Radio Broadcasts

LD3003135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—If the government does not take action soon to finance the TV and radio broadcasting network, the volume of broadcasting will be reduced by four times, says a message of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Communication Workers, sent to President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

The message said that communication workers, who are ensuring the functioning of the system, received only 7.5 billion roubles in payment of this year's debt, which amounts to 209 billion. This makes less than four per cent. The Russian Ministry of Finance plans to provide financing in the current year only for 25 per cent of TV and radio programmes. The Chita radio broadcasting station has already been stopped because of the absence of money. Radio broadcasting stations in Blagoveshchensk and some other Russian cities may also be closed down soon.

According to the message, "the president should have a final say in settling this important problem." Communication workers, who are practically working gratis, stated that they would not be held responsible for the reduction of the volume of TV and radio broadcasting.

Economic Issues

Former Finance Minister Backs Current Economic Policy

LD3103110494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Former Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov is now in charge of the State Duma's sub-committee for monetary and credit policy. At his news conference today, Fedorov made his views known concerning the current government's economic policies:

[Begin Fedorov recording] I think that not a single economic action was carried out over the past three months that could be called reformist, even in the conventional sense of the word.

At the same time, nothing bad was done either, or almost nothing, save for the abrogation of the decision on excise duties on alcohol, and for the adoption of strange import tariffs, under which the budget revenue from import tariffs is declining while prices are rising.

The government is, in essence, on course and, as for me, I will support the budget, because given the quality of the current political situation I think that this budget can be the best possible one, at any rate where expenditure is concerned.

It is clear that the government and the Finance Ministry endeavored to keep in check the swelling expenditure we have experienced. However, attempts to keep the situation under control are not tantamount to any real forward movement and that is why my views are as follows: In the first place, the government must be given a further two or three months and we must take a look at how the situation develops in reality, how inflation shapes up in May and June.

I think that in principle, things have so far been going much better than could have been expected and in this context, again, I will broadly speak in support of the government and will not enter any opposition. [end recording]

Soskovets Reviews Economic Indices At Government Session

LD3103075994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0728 GMT 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Mar—"The paralysis of the financial system in the country is not allowing many formulated programs to be implemented." This was stated today by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets at a sitting of the Russian Government. Summing up the results for the first qyarter of this year he referred to the drop in inflation as a positive element. On average it was 13-14 percent over the quarter. In addition, the first vice premier noted, a positive balance has been achieved in foreign trade. We have also been able to attain a definite stabilization of the population's standard of living.

However, Oleg Soskovets asserted, capital investments, which amounted to only 75-80 percent, have decreased. The volume of paid services fell by 40 percent, and the price index for industrial goods grew by 1.5 times. As far as the industrial sector is concerned, for example, the fall in production levels in light industry was 15 percent. The volume of freight carried by rail decreased by 23 percent.

Oleg Soskovets noted a deterioration in production activity in the fuel and energy complex, the export potential of which has significantly declined. According to him, owing to the the confused nature of the quota system Russia failed to deliver 1.5 million tonnes of oil for export.

Dubinin Forecasts End to Economic Slump Late 1994

LD2903122694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Acting Russian Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin believes that the economic slump will be overcome and economic growth will begin late in 1994-early in 1995. He addressed those present at the round-table discussions in Moscow in which U.S. businessmen also took part.

Dubinin said that financial stabilization is becoming a reality. Inflation rates are reducing and by the end of the year, he believes, inflation will not exceed 5-7% a month.

We are entering a new stage of economic development, he said. Deals in rubles are becoming more profitable. This makes it possible to stabilize the currency rate though we do not face the task of making the currency rate fixed, he said.

Dubinin said Russian reforms are aimed at achieving financial stabilization and the overcoming of inflation.

Shock therapy did not work, said Dubinin.

The key to success in the anti-inflation policy is in the draft budget, he said. In line with the draft budget, the deficit for 1994 will not exceed 10% of GNP and only 50%, he said, will be covered by Central Bank emission, while the other 50% will be covered by government bonds and the attraction of foreign loans.

Russia will not agree to accept loans with high interest, he said.

Dubinin also said that the talks will continue with the Paris and London clubs of creditor countries on restructuring Russia's external debt.

Dubinin called on representatives of U.S. industrial circles to cooperate to raise money from the United States which could be used for investments into the Russian economy.

Military Issues

Navy Deputy Chief Urges Nation To Build Balanced Force

LD3003152094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Russia must go ahead with building a balanced navy which would include all types of warships, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Admiral Igor Kasatonov told Interfax.

He said priority would be given to the building of submarines, cruisers and anti-submarine warships with a displacement tonnage of 10,000-12,000 tons and medium-class vessels such as destroyers and patrol ships with a displacement tonnage of 4,000-5,000 tons.

On the future of Russia's aircraft carrier fleet, Kasatonov said that out of the three carriers it had, only one, Felix Kuznetsov, was on combat duty in the Pacific. The second carrier, Varyag, is 85 percent complete, but he said there was no money to finish the project at the moment. More disturbingly, the carrier is under construction at Nikolyayev shipyards belonging to Ukraine, which is also cash-starved, Kasatonov said. As for the third carrier, Ulyanovsk, it is yet to be assembled, he said.

Nonetheless, the admiral believes the current trend of building aircraft carriers will persist though Russia cannot afford this at present. At the same time if other CIS states are ready to help finance the program, Moscow will welcome this, Kasatonov said.

State Committee Chairman on Plight of Defense Industry

LD3003212494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Mar—The situation in the defense industry sectors remains extremely serious. This was confirmed by the participants in a conference here today of leaders of Russian defense enterprises.

The avalanche-like nature of conversion and the reduction in state orders and state budget funding are the main reasons for the sharp slump in production. According to Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Branches of Industry [Goskomoboronprom], production has slumped over the past three years by 78 percent.

The committee's action plan for the coming two years is intended to help rectify the situation in these sectors that possess a high scientific-technical potential, modern technologies, and a powerful manufacturing base. The plan was brought to the attention of the enterprise leaders. It is a document of almost 90 pages, which deals with practically all spheres of the defense industry and envisages the development of six major programs in the industry and their handover for government consideration. It also contains recommendations on improving the legislative base.

The enterprises should themselves also seek a way out of the complex situation more energetically, Viktor Glukhikh thinks. There are considerable prospects in this area, in his view, linked with the development of programs for defense industry enterprises that take deeper account of the interests of regions.

Those taking part in the conference said that priority measures should include increasing the preliminary payment for state orders from 20 to 75 percent, the financing of new developments, and the length of state order periods from one year to five years.

Underfinanced Defense Ministry Switches Focus

MK3103080094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "Generals Conquer Politics. Appropriations Will Be Just Enough To Rename Something"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev will apparently soon have to make way for other people on the international scene. Following an active reform of the Armed Forces, the Defense Ministry risks turning into a Foreign Ministry.

It seems that everyone at the military ministry is engaged in foreign policy. Colonel General Kondratyev, deputy defense minister, is extinguishing "hot spots;" another deputy, Boris Gromov, is responsible for communications with the CIS countries. It is absolutely unclear who is handling army reform at the ministry. Even the Military Organization and Reform Administration is becoming the Military Policy Administration starting 1 April, "switching over" to the analysis of the NATO-proposed "Partnership for Peace" program. In addition, there is the International Treaty Administration, which also handles foreign policy matters.

People at the Defense Ministry have gotten used to renaming things: some of its structures have thus been "reformed" five or six times already within the past 18 months. For instance, the Main Personnel Administration [MPA] has become the Main Administration for the Training and Allocation of Personnel, only to be renamed the MPA once again. To all appearances, it is the renaming and cuts in the army, a process going on independently of anyone, that all reform in the Armed Forces will boil down to: the Defense Ministry has lost the battle for the budget, having received only half of what it requested. There is not enough money even to provide clothes for the ministerial personnel and the General Staff—the Defense Ministry's warehouses are completely empty.

So, crying a lack of trench coats, trouser stripes, and subordinates could not but give a boost to "the foreign policy consciousness of the generals' masses."

Arms Producers Demand Government Support

PM3003141394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[INTERFAX report: "Will Russia Become an Importer?"]

[Text] Russia may soon turn from an exporter of weapons into an importer, certain participants in a conference of leaders of Russia's defense enterprises, held in Yekaterinburg, believe. This was held within the framework of the "Weapons Industry Day" organized by the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry.

Representatives of 70 enterprises and institutions in Russia's military-industrial complex discussed problems of the survival of the defense industry in the prevailing conditions.

It was noted at the conference that, whereas in 1990 15 percent of the capacities of the military-industrial complex produced civilian output, in 1993 only 25 percent of the capacities of the defense complex were involved in the production of military output.

Oleg Borisov, general director of the "Promeksport" association, noted that the volume of Russian weapons exports has fallen considerably at the same time: Whereas in 1988 it totaled $12 billion, in 1993 the figure was one-sixth of this.

In their speeches, the participants also spoke of the fact that the funding of scientific projects in the military-industrial complex has fallen by a factor of 10-15 compared with 1989. According to the weapons developers, this will lead to a situation where no one will take Russia seriously on the weapons market in a few years' time.

The participants in the conference demanded that the government take fundamental measures to support the military-industrial complex.

Radioactive Contamination Sites Reported in Moscow

LD3003133494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Some of Moscow's industrial enterprises dealing with radioactive materials do not pass all of the radioactive waste to the Radon processing amalgamation. As a result, there are about 70 places contaminated with radioactive substances on the premises of Moscow's enterprises and even in the vicinity of apartment blocks, the Moscow Environmental Protection Committee told Interfax. Almost all of them have been eliminated by now, except 18 storages of low-radioactive waste in Krylatskoye, Lyublino, Strogino and some other districts.

The Moscow Environmental Protection Committee believes that as such these sites pose no threat to the population. But before building housing on them decontamination measures must be taken. The decontamination of one of such site, 26 kilometers from Moscow, is being completed.

The same source reports that there are more than 1,500 enterprises and organizations in Moscow which use nuclear reactors, radioactive materials and products.

The worst danger is coming from 769 enterprises which create radioactive waste. In 1993, radiation control inspectors revealed 288 instances of violation of safety rules.

The Moscow Environmental Protection Committee announced that on the whole, Moscow's radiation level is light and measures 7 to 14 microroentgen per hour.

Federal Assembly

Aspects of Draft Federal Budget, Economic Forecast Reported

PM3003120094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Tamara Smirnova: "Shock-Free, But Painful. The Duma Agonizes Over the Budget"]

[Text] The draft federal budget for 1994 did not reach the State Duma until the end of March. The budget message will first be studied in committees and commissions, after which the Duma committees will present their findings. Parliamentary hearings will take place 5 and 7 April, and on 13 April there will be a discussion on the first reading at a plenary session. The work of agreeing the budget will last for a further month to six weeks.

How is the budget structured in general? Revenue is set at a level of 120 trillion rubles [R], expenditure at R182 trillion, with a planned deficit of 62 trillion.

The Russian Finance Ministry's concept is formulated thus: No shock, but a tough credit and monetary policy and realistic collection of revenue. The revenue side of the budget will increase through a growth in the volume of indirect taxes, value-added tax, and excise duties. As for the expenditure side, there is nothing to rejoice about. Finance has been cut for practically everything. The biggest expenditure items of the budget are: defense—R37 trillion; targeted support for sectors—R33 trillion; aid to authorities at other levels—18 trillion; social and cultural programs—12.5 trillion. The Finance Ministry has maintained the level of expenditure on social needs at the 1993 volume.

It is planned to cover the expenditure items by means of Central Bank credits, transactions involving securities, and foreign sources, but mostly by means of tougher financial discipline, first and foremost taxation discipline.

It is predicted that inflation will fall to 15 and then 10 percent per month. Consumer prices will increase fivefold, and the decline in production will be 12 percent. These figures are contained in a forecast of Russia's socioeconomic development for 1994 which was discussed at a session of the Russian Federation Government Presidium. The document has been sent to parliament as an appendix to the draft federal budget.

Panel Head on Social Policy Draft

PM3003134194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Galina Karelova, chairman of Russian Federation Council Social Policy Committee, by Sergey Karkhanin; place, date not given: "Integral of Well-Being. Deputies and Ministers Plan Social Policy for This Year"]

[Text] This term has been encountered so often in the political rhetoric of recent months that it has come to resemble an incantation, but we should not be surprised. Given that, according to sociological polls, "Reforms for the sake of people, not at the expense of people" is now one of the most popular slogans, the social dimension of every step taken by the government is becoming particularly significant. Deputies from the Federation Council Social Policy Committee together with Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov and the leaders of a number of ministries and departments

recently discussed the draft basic guidelines for social policy in 1994. Committee Chairman Galina Karelova describes the details in conversation with a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent.

[Karkhanin] Galina Nikolayevna, it is no secret that there were many such drafts in earlier years too, but they usually remained only on paper. Does the present document contain any fundamental differences from its predecessors capable of providing hope that it will be implemented nevertheless?

[Karelova] The similar drafts that emerged in past years represented a mechanical summation of uncoordinated "sectoral" programs, which were very difficult to harmonize. But the present draft is precisely a package of measures. An attempt has been made to create an integrated document possessing integrity and a single linchpin. Obviously, the attempt has not been a total success, but Yuriy Fedorovich Yarov and his "team" have done a very great deal of work.

As we completed the preparation of our legislative program, we deputies needed to correlate our approaches with the government's and to agree on timetables so that the draft laws on social policy that Russians are so keenly awaiting could be more swiftly approved by the Federal Assembly. Moreover, we and the representatives of the government, endeavored to coordinate our actions connected with the budget. It is clear that the fine words about the priority of the social sphere pronounced from lofty rostrums are no impediment to continued funding of this sphere on the basis of the notorious leftover principle....

Our deputies particularly noted a fundamentally important point: A system of state social guarantees expressing in figures what the minimum needs of each Russian citizen cost has still not been formulated. I believe that this system has not been formulated precisely because at present, it is impossible to provide the money for it, since the state has almost none. But then, in my view, people should be openly and directly told what percentage of their needs we can provide for.

Until recently, I worked in Sverdlovsk Oblast, and I know that the regions are keenly awaiting a law on the minimum consumer budget, which will make it possible at long last to determine who should be categorized as belonging to low-income groups. At present, anybody can categorize themselves as such. There is no officially approved criterion.... Incidentally, it will also be useful for enterprises to have a guideline as to what minimum wage they should provide for their workers.

[Karkhanin] So far we have been talking about approaches, about the general nature of the draft basic guidelines. Could you cite a few sections to show what it is like?

[Karelova] One of the most important sections is the one about policy in the sphere of labor relations. New forms of ownership have emerged, and hired workers often feel that they have no rights now that the code of labor laws effectively does not operate. So the document touches on questions of remuneration and insurance. The government has prepared a number of draft laws about the rights of employers and hired workers. Moreover, a federal employment program has been submitted to us—this touches not only on the problem of the unemployed, but also on the problems of support for small and medium enterprises via the territories. Tremendous preparatory work has been carried out here, and the regions in primary need of assistance have been identified.

[Karkhanin] You mentioned the government's lawmaking activity, although this role used usually to belong to parliament....

[Karelova, interrupting] We are not abandoning lawmaking, of course, but in my view the government's activeness is only to be welcomed. I already have in hand around 20 draft laws relating to labor relations, employment, migration, and the environment prepared by the government. I think it is important for normative documents, especially those relating to problems of social protection, to be prepared by those who will have to fulfill them. Having said that, there is a need for control. You cannot allow standards to be artificially lowered in the interests of irresponsibility.

I know that many organizations, both state and public, took part in preparing these draft laws, and we are prepared to accept the documents that were discussed as the basis for work.

Separate chapters in the draft basic guidelines relate to migration policy and social support for those who are unable to work and low-income groups. Incidentally, our parliamentary committee will soon receive from the government a blueprint for pension reform, and the draft law on nonstate pension funds will clearly be discussed by Federal Assembly deputies as early as April.

Furthermore, under the present system there are 14 types of benefits for families with children, and there is a confusing situation which people find it hard to understand. So the government is proposing to introduce a clear unified system that everyone can understand. We support this stance. There is also the idea of restructuring the obsolete and cumbersome system for collecting alimony, which has meant unnecessary and often futile hassle both for the militia and mothers. Together with the State Duma deputies' commissions, we intend to work on a plan whereby the rights of the child will be protected by the state, to ensure that alimony is paid from the state budget regardless of whether the errant father who left the family without a livelihood has been found.

[Karkhanin] Nevertheless, the most burning question for most people today is the income of family budgets. If it proves possible to implement the draft basic guidelines, how will this affect people's lives?

[Karelova] The most important point is that their social rights, including with regard to remuneration, will be

better protected. We will shortly begin to examine a new labor code which specially notes that delays in paying wages are impermissible. Various forms of payment were mentioned in the debates that our deputies had with Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan. If there is no cash, credit cards or promissory notes can be used. The banks have a whole system for noncash payments, and better use must be made of these.

Unemployed people are appearing and the problem of employment is emerging, and it by no means always has to be solved by finding someone a new job. For instance, back home in Sverdlovsk Oblast the "Uralobuv" [footwear] enterprise closed, although its products were cheap and convenient and were snapped up for children and pensioners. So for socially important enterprises that find themselves in difficult economic conditions, there must be material support from an employment fund in order to preserve these jobs.

For this reason, the federal employment program includes a number of sections aimed at supporting not only those who have already lost their jobs but also those who are employed in small and medium enterprises, especially those producing consumer goods. These mainly employ women and young people—the social groups who make up around 70 percent of the unemployed.

According to the draft state budget, it is planned to appropriate around 12 trillion rubles [R] for social purposes—this is approximately the same level as last year. We believe that this sum must be increased—I am talking about the regions that suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster and the environmental disaster zones with equivalent status—Kamensk-Uralskiy, Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk Oblasts, Altay Kray. Even if expenditure is kept at last year's level, the sum of R3.8 trillion is needed, but only half of that sum has been agreed, so we are asking the government to fund the aforementioned regions at least at the level of 1993.

Clearly, increasing expenditure means increasing the budget deficit, but our committees and the Duma committees still intend to make an in-depth examination of a number of issues and identify where savings can be made. But I think it would be immoral to making savings out of the calamity that befell the victims of Chernobyl.

[Karkhanin] Incidentally, how did the debates with government representatives go at the enlarged sitting of your committee? What was the atmosphere like?

[Karelova] Each minister spoke about his sector's problems. This is the information we badly need. We received all the necessary documents. The debate was very amicable, and we remain inclined toward business-like cooperation.

Obviously, the draft basic guidelines along with our comments will be approved in the government in the very near future. Our comments mostly boiled down to saying that insufficient account was taken of the regional aspect. We Federation Council deputies have worked in the regions and we know that the state gets 80 percent of its funds from the provinces. So why does Moscow dictate to the local authorities how to spend them? This does not allow the oblasts to solve social questions in an effective manner. Although the local authorities must become a real player in social policy.

Moreover, the draft has virtually not been agreed with nonstate players in social policy. They too should have been made into allies. One final point—the programs on most topics are integrated only in terms of their elements. However, this is natural: Ministries have always been isolated from each other.

So it is one of our main tasks to unite. Our deputies' committee is already setting up an interdepartmental expert commission that will prepare draft normative acts. So we are already taking the first steps.

Parliament Members Meet Muslim Religious Leaders

LD3003154194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow 30 Mar, TASS—The lower house of the Russian Parliament is making efforts to reach stabilisation in society which meets the support of Moslem believers in Russia, said the speaker of the State Duma, Ivan Rybkin, at a meeting with Moslem leaders of religious denominations of the Russian Federation on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Central Department of Moslem Communities of Russia, the European Part of the CIS and the Baltic States (MDEC), Talgat Tadzhuddin-Sheikh-ul-Islam, members of the MDEC presidium, Ravil Gainutdin and Dzhafar Bikmayev.

During the talks the sides discussed problems of cooperation between the state and Moslem organisations in reaching civic peace and accord in Russia, problems of imposing fundamentalism and extremism on Russian Moslems by foreign Islamic organisations and the assistance rendered by the state in the restoration and construction of mosques and education of priests.

During the talks religious leaders raised the question of setting up a special state department for religious affairs. They also touched upon unfair distribution of air time on television, which prefers foreign missionaries, infringing on the rights of traditional religious confessions in Russia.

Regional Affairs

North Ossetia Extends State of Emergency 2 Months

LD3103113794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The North Ossetia Federal Assembly has extended for two months, starting at 1400 today, the state of emergency on a part of the territory of Mozdok, Pravoberezhnyy, and Prigorodnyy rayons, and also at Vladikavkaz Airport.

North Ossetian deputies have addressed a message to the leadership of the Russian Federation. They refer to the continuing tense situation in those North Ossetian rayons neighboring with Ingushetia as a reason why it has become necessary to extend the state of emergency.

Nizhniy Novgorod Mayor Implicated in Electoral Fraud

PM3103100594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Yershov under the "Events and Comments" rubric: "Nizhniy Novgorod Mayor Falsifies Election Results"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—A. Nekrasov, chairman of the Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Electoral Commission, has made a sensational statement: In District No. 3, where, among other candidates, Nizhniy Novgorod Mayor D. Bednyakov was running for the Oblast Legislative Assembly, facts concerning the falsification of the election results have been uncovered. Furthermore, this was done with the participation of D. Bednyakov and other officials.

Staffers of the Avtozavodskiy Rayon Prosecutor's Office are now investigating this unusual case. District No. 3 for the elections to the Oblast Legislative Assembly has 30 electoral precincts; 65,000 voters live here. On the day of the elections, 27 March, 17,611 ballot papers were given out; the voter turnout was over 27 percent. But, as we know, the definitive results of the ballot are determined by the number of ballot papers which are deemed to be valid.

Unfortunately, there was a "shortfall" here, and this district clearly did not reach the necessary 25 percent.

"In all, for various reasons, 1,655 ballot papers were deemed invalid, that is, almost one-tenth of the number issued," A. Nekrasov said. "Incidentally, we had obtained all this information by computer communication from the district electoral commission the day before, and that is why the elections here were deemed invalid."

There followed actions which can not be called anything except the most gross violation of legality, A. Nekrasov went on. Under pressure from D. Bednyakov and with the active participation of G. Sokolnikov, head of the Avtozavodskiy Rayon Administration, his deputy, Zh. Bolshakova, and Ye. Boyarintseva, head of the organizational section at the rayon administration, all the ballot papers were unpacked. Of course, the officials, trying to please their chief at any cost, were primarily interested in the ballot papers which were deemed invalid the day before. They were all laid out in piles again, and essentially a recount took place. At the same time the previous protocols of the precinct electoral commissions were destroyed, and this documentation was essentially filled out anew. The number of valid ballot papers was raised first to 25.1 percent as a result of the aforementioned manipulations, and later even higher— to 25.2 percent. It must be noted that the original count of the electorate's votes was conducted in the presence of persons empowered to act for the candidates and numerous observers, and there were no complaints or censure on their part. In short, this is a matter of the most flagrant arbitrariness by officials and an attempt by D. Bednyakov, leader of the city authorities, to achieve the desired results during the elections.

Yeltsin Dismisses Acting Mayor

LD3003203594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin dismissed acting administration head of Nizhny Novgorod Dmitriy Bednyakov for "flagrant misconduct."

The regional Governor Boris Nemtsov appointed his deputy Ivan Sklyarov to act as Nizhnyy Novgorod mayor.

Officials in the regional administration explained to Interfax that the misconduct lay in Bednyakov's refusal to carry out Governor Nemtsov's order to cancel the referendum on the city charter draft. The refusal destabilized the city and the region, discredited the authorities and made their joint work impossible.

Nemtsov said at a news conference Wednesday that "continuous rallies, picketing, ballot rigging and a large-scale anti-Semitic campaign could not be described as stability."

Ousted Vladivostok Officials Turn to Court

944F0502B Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Tatyana Roshchina: "Suits, Applications From 'Formers' Beset Vladivostok Procuracy and Courts"]

[Text] According to a report from the city administration press center, a commission for reorganizing the management structure under the leadership of acting deputy chief of the city, V. Terekhov, has been formed in the Gray House. Information about the course of its work has been promised within the next few days when the document on "reorganization" is finally ready.

Well, the "victims" have a viewpoint regarding this as well. In the words of V. Gilgenberg, he has not seen the decree for his ouster. After moving out of the city manager's office, from which he managed to remove his personal belongings and money, Vladimir Aleksandrovich filed charges in the Frunzenskiy Rayon court against the deputy chief of the kray, I. Lebedinets, regarding his discharge.

As it turned out, I. Lebedinets had signed no such decree, and so the charges were filed against the wrong person. They were transferred to the Leninskiy Rayon people's court, which will obviously submit an inquiry to the city administration which is located on the territory of this rayon. It is assumed that the corresponding directive was issued by acting city chief K. Tolstochein, and the question of the legality of firing Gilgenberg should be addressed to him.

Further, V. Gilgenberg filed charges against the deputy chief of the kray, I. Lebedinets, in the Frunzenskiy Rayon court concerning the illegality, in the plaintiff's opinion, of Lebedinets' decree appointing K. Tolstochein as acting chief of the city, since effective 14 March, on instructions from V. Cherepkov, who had gone into the hospital, his duties were to be performed by V. Gilgenberg.

In addition, Gilgenberg sent three applications to the city procurator and also the kray procurator. The latter was addressed also to the president, the chairmen of the Duma and the Council of the Federation of the Russian Federation, and the procurator general. They also discuss the illegality of the ouster of both Gilgenberg himself and the other workers of the mayor's office. Moreover, the former manager insisted on having I. Lebedinets removed from his position and bringing criminal charges against him for statements that violate, in the plaintiff's opinion, the principles of "racial and ethnic equal rights."

The chief of the city administration for public education, N. Beletskiy, reported that on 22 March two workers of the mayor's office accompanied by a militia detail headed by the deputy chief of the Leninskiy Rayon internal affairs department, S. Goncharuk, had tried twice to kick him out of his office and no documents were presented either for his dismissal or for staff cutbacks. In Beletskiy's words, administration workers "defended" him.

This incident was the occasion for the appeal from N. Beletskiy to the city procurator, representatives of the State Duma, and the investigator of the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation.

The former chairman of the city committee for administration of property, P. Bezukladnikov, was "luckier": He was given, in his words, an order firing him (No. 356 of 17 March), signed by K. Tolstochein. Effective 18 March the former chief, A. Sazhnov, was returned to the office. P. Bezukladnikov filed charges with the Leninskiy Rayon people's court against acting chief of the city administration K. Tolstochein concerning the illegality of his dismissal.

Bryansk Elections Take Place in 'Unstable' Situation

PM3003153194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Shpachkov: "What Color Will Bryansk Duma Be?"]

[Text] Bryansk—Elections have been held to the Bryansk Oblast Duma in an unstable sociopolitical situation. The oblast, in turmoil at the constant change of leaders (this is no joke, last year they changed governors three times!), has again been sent into a spin. In the local mass media and at meetings with the voters deputies of the Russian Federal Assembly—Petr Shirshov, former chairman of Bryansk City Soviet, Oleg Shenkarev, leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party oblast organization, and other opponents of the course of reforms—have been trying to mobilize public opinion in favor of reinstating the communist Yuriy Lodkin, previously ousted by the president, to the post of governor.

The oblast duma cannot expand indefinitely. It has 27 seats. One-hundred-and-fifty-two deputies want to occupy them. Furthermore, it is mainly economic managers and leaders of production who wanted to contest those seats. A real danger emerged that instead of a constructive body here there might be a recurrence of the old party-economic aktiv. This, of course, was bound to affect the voters' attitude.

Emerging from the woodwork, the partyocrats and opponents of the radical transformation of the country bombarded people with a torrent of propaganda that has been so well rehearsed in the past. Leaflets appeared in Bryansk "advising" voters to vote unfailingly for the communists and, of course, against the oblast Charter, which has been submitted to the residents' verdict. Such a familiar "corrupt leadership," such a familiar method! Victory at any price—that is the usual principle of the opponents of the reforms. But it seems that the "champions of the people's well-being" had not given any thought to what actual work they would do on the voters' behalf should they happen to win. For example, how did Federation Council Deputy Petr Shirshov, recently elected chairman of the CIS Countries' Defense Committee, plan physically and geographically to combine that job with his work in the oblast duma? After all, Petr Petrovich was so busy that he could not even attend a prearranged news conference, and the candidate sent an assistant to represent his interests.

Do these factors not explain the unprecedentedly low turnout of voters in Bryansk? By the end of polling none of the city electoral districts had managed to pass the necessary 25-percent target. It was only the turnout among rural inhabitants which made the elections in the oblast valid.

Kaliningrad To Receive 'As Much Power as Possible'

WS3003134494 Kaliningrad SVOBODNAYA ZONA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with Vladimir Filippovich Shumeyko, Russian minister of press and mass information, by unidentified SVOBODNAYA ZONA reporter; place and date not given: "Vladimir Shumeyko: 'The Treaty With Kaliningrad Oblast Will Be Signed'"]

[Text] [Reporter] Vladimir Filippovich, much is currently being said about the following subject: After the treaty on the division of power between Tatarstan and the federal organs is concluded, a similar treaty will be signed with Kaliningrad Oblast. Who is the initiator of this project?

[Shumeyko] The initiative to conclude the treaty between the Kaliningrad Oblast administration and the federal government belongs to the Security Council. I would like to emphasize that the Potsdam Agreement has no time limit. However, some politicians use its 50th anniversary to raise the issue of Kaliningrad's status, claiming that the term of this agreement expires because the USSR and Stalin no longer exist. Furthermore, they state that Russia is not the legal heir to the Soviet Union, and Kaliningrad Oblast could become a German protectorate or a separate state. At the same time, some propose setting up a demilitarized zone on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast because the presence of troops allegedly blocks economic development, and so on.

Therefore, the Security Council decided to sign this agreement.

[Reporter] What provisions will the agreement include? Will relations be altered?

[Shumeyko] The power and rights to be relegated by the federal government to the local authorities correspond to the equivalent volume of power and rights to be handed over by local authorities to the federal government. Thus, the Security Council came to the conclusion that currently it is expedient to relegate as much power as possible to the local administration to enable it to react operatively and timely to any developments. Instant and adequate reaction by the local authorities to every development in this area is of key importance for Russia.

Hence, we will thoroughly prepare this agreement. We will properly decide what functions should be relegated and which of them should remain under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

No. Ossetian Delegates Fail To Attend Conciliation Talks

MK3003115094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Republic of Ingushetia"]

[Text] According to a report from the press service of the permanent mission of the Republic of Ingushetia under the Russian Federation president, the meeting of working groups of the conciliation commission for Ingushetia and North Ossetia scheduled in the town of Terek (Kabardino-Balkaria) for 29 March did not take place owing to the Vladikavkaz delegation's failure to appear. The Ingush delegation returned to Nazran. Earlier, Republic of Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev forwarded to Akhsarbek Galazov, head of the Republic of North Ossetia, a package of proposals on a settlement of relations between the two republics. Since terms for the return of Ingush refugees to North Ossetia and preparations for a meeting between the Republic's leaders early in April were supposed to form the main topic of the talks in Terek, in the Ingush side's assessment the failure of the North Ossetia delegation to come to the talks can be assessed as "boycotting the process of normalizing the situation in the region."

No. Ossetia Accused of Boycotting Normalization

LD3003133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Ingushetia has again accused North Ossetia of boycotting the process of normalizing the situation in the area. A letter to the chairman of the Council of the Federation Vladimir Shumeyko says the tactics of North Ossetia during the past year and a half has been procrastinating a settlement by senseless talks, the failure to carry out approved protocols and agreements.

The first round of the talks which were supposed to work out documents for the 2 April meeting of the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia should have taken place in Terek, Kabardino-Balkaria on Tuesday. However, according to Interfax reporters the Ossetian side was late an hour and a half for the negotiations. The Ingush side regarded this as a demonstration of disrespect and left for home.

The Ossetian side was late for the meeting because of a car crash in which two persons were injured and taken to hospital. The Ingush side waved off the explanation as groundless.

Chechen Official on Ties With Moscow, Khasbulatov

MK3103110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Natalya Pachegina in the "Negotiations" column: "Groznyy Is Unhappy With Russia's Terms. Nonetheless It Is Ready for Dialogue"]

[Text] The results of the preliminary talks in Moscow between Chechen Republic State Secretary Aslambek Akbulatov and Russian presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov have not as yet received official approval in Groznyy. According to Republic parliament chairman Yakhyat Idigov, Chechnya regards the positions outlined

by both sides at this stage as fairly satisfactory. Russia's conditions (there are two) are that Chechnya will continue to be a component of the Russian Federation and that democratic elections be held there, Sergey Shakhray, Russian nationalities and regional policy minister, told a State Duma session. It is another matter, Idigov said, that the Chechen leadership is in no haste to accept these terms as an expression of the government viewpoint on the issue of relations with the republic. "We know Shakhray's position," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent was told, "but this does not mean that these are actually Russia's terms." Groznyy knows that there are forces in Russia capable of abandoning the old- fashioned ambitions.

In this respect, the interlocutor made clear, Groznyy does not see the Russian State Duma and the Federation Council as reliable allies. Primarily because in the eyes of the incumbent Chechen authorities their Russian colleagues do not represent legitimate executive bodies. Nonetheless, Groznyy is left with no other option than to accept the inevitable, especially given that over here "it is traditional to respect the choice of Russia's peoples who have elected the present composition of the Federal Assembly."

With respect to the possibility of the anti-Dudayev opposition's using the name and authority of Ruslan Khasbulatov, who now lives in Groznyy, Idigov noted that Ruslan Khasbulatov, a citizen of Chechnya, a well-known advocate of the idea of "a single and indivisible Russia," will not find it very easy to retain his authority among his fellow countrymen. Recalling the details of the nearly two-centuries-old Russian-Chechen "alliance," speaker Idigov observed that furthermore, on the issue of Chechnya's independence, the anti-Dudayev opposition fully shares the position of Groznyy officialdom and that no Khasbulatov or his admirers, "bent by Soviet rule," will manage "to buy the hard-won freedom so cheaply." Neither will this "maneuver" come off with certain Russian politicians who are trying, as it is known to Groznyy, to "involve" Khasbulatov in the complicated Russian-Chechen relations.

PRES Forms Regional Branch in Tatarstan

944F0502A Kazan RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Shakhray's Party in Tatarstan"]

[Text] The Tatar Regional Branch of PRES, Party of Russian Unity and Accord, which is known throughout the country as Shakhray's party, has been entered into the State Register of Public Organizations of the Republic of Tatarstan. As of the moment of registration the Tatar Regional Branch included 67 individuals from 12 rayon and city local party organizations. Isaf Sayfullin, doctor of sciences, docent, and director of the scientific and technical center of the YelAZ association, was elected chairman of the Tatar Regional Branch of PRES.

Today PRES is the only all-Russian party with a political platform that reflects the aspiration of Tatarstan and the regions for national revival and real federalism. The party is in favor of providing state guarantees of a worthwhile existence to people of the older generation, disabled persons, and orphans and in favor of guaranteeing full-value education and public health for children on the basis of an effective market economy and social support mechanisms.

In its activity, the Tatar Regional Branch of the PRES strives for further consolidation of the statehood of Russia and Tatarstan with the help of contractual procedures; the establishment between Russia and Tatarstan of relations based on principles of law and justice; and the achievement of greater representation of their supporters in representative organs of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan.

The First Congress of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord was held in Moscow at the end of February. Delegates from the Tatar Regional Branch of the PRES [line(s) missing in original] agreement signed by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan. This agreement, in particular, makes it possible to make the Tatar Regional Branch of the PRES a reliable ally of the Tatarstan party Unity and Progress.

Presidential Administration Aide on Regional Elections

PM3003151394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova citing remarks by Sergey Samoylov, deputy chief of the Administration for Territorial Affairs under the President's Administration, under "Regional Elections" rubric: "Who Has Been Voted Onto Local Organs of Power"]

[Text] "Today we have only the preliminary data on the elections," Sergey Samoylov, deputy chief of the Administration for Territorial Affairs under the President's Administration, told our correspondent. "At the moment it is still too early to analyze the composition of the local-level representative organs; that is a task for the next few days. But one or two preliminary conclusions can be drawn: For instance, we were attracted by the election proceedings in Kemerovo Oblast. Of the 35 districts, elections were valid in 30. Nineteen supporters of Aman Tuleyev, the former oblast soviet chairman, headed by Tuleyev himself, were voted onto the representative organ, and 11 of the deputies elected are supporters of the head of the administration and his course. The future representative assembly will thus be determined by by-elections for five deputies.

"Running for the Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet of Deputies (such is the name of the representative organ) was the former chairman of the local oblast soviet, a 'star' of all antipresidential campaigns. He was elected along with a significant number of his supporters.

"We forecast that the elections would prove invalid in Magadan Oblast: This region has a very difficult social situation, and sends many complaints to the president, and indeed, of the 17 districts, elections were valid only in 10. We hoped that the elections would take place more or less evenly in Samara Oblast, and that a good guberniya duma would be elected, but the results do not empower the representative organ to begin work. Elections to the organs of local self-government were valid here in only half the districts.

"Ryazan Oblast is a special case—voters elected 19 deputies, there was a fairly large turnout, but the people of Ryazan had raised the bar which they have to clear: In order for the elctions to be deemed valid, not less than 35 percent of voters had to take part in the vote here. This bar was cleared in only 12 districts, and the representative organ cannot begin work because it is one deputy short.

"The conflict between Nizhniy Novgorod's governor and the head of the oblast center administration could not fail to affect the course of the elections. The collapse of the elections in the city suggest that the legislative assembly will be composed of people of a sufficiently conservative cast of mind."

St. Petersburg Elections Fail To Produce Viable Authority

PM3003151194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Kukanov: "Results of St. Petersburg Ballot Will Be Counted by...the Courts"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Elections in the city on the Neva could be ruled valid in only half of the 50 districts. And even there, whether they are legally valid or not, will have to be decided by the city court, since city Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has rejected a protest from the prosecutor's office over the extension of the voting hours in the ballot, which took place 20 March. The fate of a further 25 seats will be decided in the fall. However, the new organ of representative power could prove noncompetent—its legal authority is determined by the presence of two-thirds of elected deputies.

Voter Turnout Low in Urban Areas of Kursk Oblast

PM3103085194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Viktor Metchikov: "It Is Not a Duma That Has Been Elected, But a Council of Administration Heads"]

[Text] Kursk—Last Sunday, 36 deputies were elected to 45 seats in the Kursk Oblast Duma. The citizens' level of participation was as a whole fairly high at 47 percent.

In short, the elections took place, but now with hindsight you think: What was the point of holding them at all? No representative power as such has come into being in the oblast. Twenty-one of the 36 new deputies are rayon administration heads. Meaning that they themselves will write the local laws as well as executing and monitoring them....

This situation is not new, but in our parts, where it is "getting worse" with every successive election, it is interesting that the townspeople long ago surrendered their voting rights to the rural areas. It was actually there that voting went amazingly smoothly, But the elections could be said to have been boycotted in eight out of 12 districts in Kursk. In four of the oblast center's districts the turnout proved to be the minimum allowed, and, as it is not hard to divine, it was on the whole elderly people who voted here. They accordingly entrusted deputies' powers to a former oblast military commissar and pensioner for some years now, M. Ovsyannikov, and one of the leaders of the oblast Communist Party organization, N. Ivanov....

V. Aseyev, first secretary of the Russian Communist Workers Party Oblast Committee, and another communist, successfully got into the Oblast Duma from the mining district of Zheleznogorsk, and the nuclear power workers' city of Kurchatov, as promised, made a show of not turning up at the polling places—the turnout was only about 12 percent here—because their wages have not been paid for a long time. It is a paradox of the times when, it would seem, the need to qualitatively change the authorities is greater and more acute in those places where the people do not wish to participate in voting for them.

Communists Gain Most Party Seats in Local Elections

LD3003211294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS commentator Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 30 Mar—The Central Electoral Commission has told an ITAR-TASS commentator that between last December and the end of this March there were local elections in 69 regions of Russia, 60 of which were declared valid. In the overwhelming majority of these regions, additional elections needed to be held to fill local assemblies as a result of voters' passivity the first time around. [passage omitted]

In the Chuvash Republic, elections took place in 28 out of 47 constituencies; in Voronezh Oblast—in 35 out of 45; in Kemerovo Oblast—in 30 out of 35; and in Nizhnyy Novgorod—in 32 out of 45 constituencies.

As an illustration of how politicians were more active then voters, it was noted that in Belgorod Oblast, there were 104 candidates for 21 seats; 198 for 48 in Kirov Oblast; 187 for 30 in Omsk Oblast; and 210 candidates for 50 seats in Orel Oblast.

Only 19 percent of candidates in the elections had stood on party tickets. The Communists were the most active party. In the 27 March elections, 34 Russian Communist Party members were elected to local assemblies, out of 200 candidates.

Former oblast Soviet chairmen were elected as deputies in Kemerovo, Tambov, Voronezh, Novosibirsk, and other Oblasts.

Maritime Kray Leaders Discuss Immediate Plans

OW3103031894 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0815 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report by O. Padenko from Vladivostok; from the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of the Maritime Kray administration who has just returned from Moscow, held a news conference in Vladivostok. He began by rebutting criticism by the VLADIVOSTOK newspaper, which in an article, accused him of lobbying for Japanese technology to process nuclear submarine waste. The newspaper claimed that, unlike the costly equipment from Japan, our Far East scientists offer a version which is both cheaper and much more effective.

However, Yevgeniy Nazdratenko emphasized that our equipment was still at the laboratory stage, while the Japanese technology has already been tried in industrial applications at every Japanese nuclear station and could quickly save Maritime Kray residents from a catastrophic accumulation of nuclear waste. What is more, the equipment will be installed free of charge.

After this, the governor made the following statement:

[Begin Nazdratenko recording] On the basis of edict No. 54-1 of the Russian Federation State Duma, issued on 11 February 1994, on the legal basis for the election of organs of state power of federal members of the Russian Federation and of organs of local self rule, and on guaranteeing the voting rights of citizens; and in accordance with article No. 5 of decree No. 2265 from the President of the Russian Federation, issued on 22 December 1993, on guarantees of local self rule in the Russian Federation; and taking into consideration the numerous appeals by city and rayon administrations, political parties, public movements, and voters, and the need to search for a means of social protection for the needy in society; and in coordination with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, I hereby decree:

1. To transfer the date of elections for the Maritime Kray Duma and organs of local self rule from 27 March 1994 to 23 October 1994.

2. To recommend to the Election Commission of the Maritime Kray that it prepare, before 30 April 1994, a proposal to ensure the implementation of the above-mentioned decree.

3. That Tereshkov, head of the finance department, and Stepanovich, head of the accounts department, are to direct funding allocated by the kray administration for conducting the election campaign to city and rayon administrations to solve issues of social protection for needy citizens. [end recording]

[Padenko] Then Yevgeniy Nazdratenko answered questions by journalists on such topics as the scandalous action taken against Viktor Cherepkov, the mayor of Vladivostok. He denied reports by several news agencies that claimed the municipality building was surrounded by OMON [special purpose militia unit] troops, bonfires and many protesters bearing placards. We journalists verified this denial personally when we visited the municipality building immediately after the news conference. There were no bonfires or demonstrations. The building is protected by reinforced police units, and the tenth floor, where the offices of the city administration leadership are located, are a shambles. Repairs to the offices are being carried out, they are also being cleaned and furniture is being replaced because, it seems, the previous leadership did not even keep their own workplace clean. The new leaders saw the similarity between this scene and the neglect in the city. The new authorities, therefore, issued decree No.1 declaring a sanitary and epidemiological emergency in Vladivostok. It was signed by Konstantin Tolstoshein, acting head of city administration. Here is his what he said:

[Begin Tolstoshein recording] We must clean the city before 9 May, in time for the national holiday, the holiday of veterans, the holiday of victory. Church holidays fall on approximately the same dates. We simply must tidy the city and make it look as it should.

The second issue is the work of the city transport authorities. The way the city transport system works today...

[Padenko, interrupting] ...Free of charge.

[Tolstoshein] Free of charge or not is a secondary issue. First, it must start working in an orderly fashion. Trains, trams, and trolley buses must function properly. There is a problem: The dacha season is about to begin, and electric trains should be running. After all, not everyone in Vladivostok has a car, so we have to deal with this issue, too.

Third, there are very few stores in the city that cater to veterans of World War II, or Afghanistan, Chernobyl victims, or diabetics; most of them are closed. In other words, we are also working on this problem. I have met and resolved this issue with the state reserve, so we will open several additional stores over the next few days, and we will supply food products and necessities there at much lower prices.

Fourth, strange as it may seem, the winter is over, and we are taking care of the city, cleaning and washing it and so on, but we have already started to prepare for next winter. [end recording]

[Padenko] A demonstration supporting the ousted mayor was held yesterday in Vladivostok central square. Even Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was expected, though he did not fly in.

A commission from Moscow began its work in the kray administration building. The highest legislative organs are looking into the Cherepkov affair, and Viktor Ivanovich [Cherepkov] himself declared a hunger strike in his home.

International Affairs

Ukraine Urged To Pay Black Sea Fleet Power Bill

MK3003102094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Around the Clock Nonstop" rubric: "Ukraine Defense Ministry Urged To Pay Bills"]

[Text] We have come to learn from competent sources in Sevastopol that the Black Sea Fleet command sent a cable yesterday to General of the Army Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine defense minister.

It says that, as of 28 March 1994, the debt of the Ukrainian military units that use electric power through military units of the Black Sea Fleet amounts to 4 billion karbovanets. As for the debt run up by customers subordinated to Ukraine's Defense Ministry to the construction department of the Black Sea Fleet, it is as high as 16.709 trillion karbovanets.

The Black Sea Fleet Command believes that this situation is evidence of the Ukraine Defense Ministry's having violated the understanding reached between the two republics at the presidential level on joint financing of the Black Sea Fleet. In essence, the Ukrainian military is solving its own problems at the expense of the Russian Navy.

Unless the Defense Ministry pays up the debt to the Black Sea Fleet before 10 April, the Black Sea Fleet command will halt the construction and assembly work being done for Ukraine's Defense Ministry, and make all Ukrainian military units use their own power resources, the cable says.

Crimean President's Aide: Ukraine Cannot Finance Fleet

LD3003115094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet continues to be a bone of contention between Ukraine and Russia. Vladimir Bezkorovannyy, commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces, believes the naval vessels of the coastal service of the Black Sea Fleet must be divided equally between Russia and Ukraine. However, in the opinion of Valeriy Kuznetsov, adviser to the Crimean president for military issues, Ukraine is not capable of financing combat training even with the minimum of vessels at its disposal.

The Black Sea Fleet numbers more than 100 naval vessels in all; of these only five are Ukrainian. At the same time, as Valeriy Kuznetsov emphasized, Ukraine has substantially increased the number of its ground armed forces on the territory of Crimea. Here there are now about 50,000 Ukrainian servicemen together with their construction units.

Ukraine is probably afraid of the processes that are taking place in Crimea, Valeriy Kuznetsov said, because Crimea is Russian in spirit.

Crimea, Tatarstan Establish Ties at Presidential Level

AU3003140694 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Mar 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Just Like Totally Independent"]

[Text] The presidents of Tatarstan and the Crimea have agreed to conduct consultations on issues of bilateral relations and to contribute to the development of contacts between state institutions and public, national, and other organizations of their respective autonomous republics. An accord was also reached on opening trade and economic and cultural centers in Kazan [capital of Tatarstan] and Simferopol. This is stated in a communique issued by the Crimean presidential administration based upon the results of the Crimean president's trip to Tatarstan on 18 and 19 March. The document also points out that, during the negotiations, [Crimean President] Meshkov and [President of Tatarstan] Shaymiyev expressed their mutual interest in the further development of economic, scientific and technological, cultural, and humanitarian ties.

Gas Debt to Turkmenistan Sold to Private Corporation

LD3003202294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 30 Mar—It has become known from well-informed sources that an agreement was signed between in the 20's of March [20-29 March] between the Governments of Ukraine and Turkmenistan on the payment of Ukraine's debt for 1993 and payment for the supply of natural gas in the first half of 1994. In accordance with the agreement's conditions, the government of Ukraine, in the person of Valentyn Landyk, deputy prime minister for issues of foreign economic activity, is handing over the debt for gas equaling U.S. $671,900,000 to the "Respublika" corporation, which was recently set up in Kiev. The corporation has also assumed the obligation to pay for deliveries of Turkmen gas for 1994 to the value of $500 million.

In accordance with the agreement's conditions, 35 percent of the said totals should be paid in cash. The remainder should be compensated to Turkmenistan by Ukrainian goods, which in fact means the consolidation of the system of export quotas and licenses. In the event that the "Respublika" corporation does not fulfill its obligations in paying off the debt, Ukraine's government is to pay it. That is, under the agreement the mediator does not bear any financial responsibility.

Experts note that the resale of state debt to nonstate structures is an extremely dangerous matter. These means are only used after a country has been officially declared bankrupt (for example by The Hague arbitration court). We will note that payment for the mediation operations of the "Respublika" corporation could be from 3 to 8 percent of the total debt, which is from 35 to $94 million. In addition, the mediator becomes a monopolist of 10-15 percent of Ukraine's total exports. The emergence of a commercial mediator in interstate relations evokes the surprise of experts. We emphasize that in accordance with the law, such agreements become valid only after ratification by Ukraine's Supreme Council.

Canadian Foreign Minister Meets With Zlenko

WS3103110294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Today, in Kiev, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko meets with Canada's Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet who arrived on an official visit at Ukraine's capital yesterday.

Joint Ukrainian-Canadian documents will be signed, in particular, an intergovernmental agreement on trade and commercial relations as well as a declaration on the special nature [osoblyve] of a partnership between Ukraine and Canada.

Today, according to the program of the visit, Canada's foreign minister will be received by Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. A meeting between Andre Ouellet and Oleh Slepichev, minister for external economic relations, will also be held.

National Affairs

Kuchma to Run in Ukrainian Presidential Election

LD3003135994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—On 30 March, the Kuchma-Grinev Interregional Bloc of Reforms' Information and Analysis Center told UNIAN that Leonid Kuchma, the bloc's leader, former Ukrainian prime minister and Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs' chairman, intends to run in the presidential elections set by Ukraine's Supreme Council to take place on 26 June. According to information from the same source, Leonid Kuchma hopes he will be able to secure the support of a majority in the new parliament as, having gained 91 percent of the electorate vote on 27 March, he won the parliamentary election in his constituency.

Run-Off Elections Scheduled for 3, 10 Apr

LD3003141094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A UNIAN correspondent learned today from reliable sources that run-off elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council will take place on 3 April in 47 districts of eight of Ukraine's oblasts, and on 10 April in 359 districts. Run-off elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council will also take place on 10 April in 18 districts of the Republic of Crimea and in all 28 districts of Kharkov Oblast.

Report on Candidates Eligible for Next Round

LD3003173094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] As many as 159 representatives of the Ukrainian Communist Party and 29 of the Socialist Party qualified for the second round of elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. This is 25 percent of the total number of candidates. A second round of voting will be held in 401 constituencies. In each constituency there will be two candidates (who received the biggest number of votes during the first round). The total number of candidates who qualified for the second round voting is 802. This was announced to Interfax-Ukraine by the regional headquarters for organization of the elections and by the district election commissions.

About 70 candidates from the Ukrainian People's RUKh, 24 from the Ukrainian Republican Party and six candidates from the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists will run for the second round of parliamentary elections. About 125 of the candidates participating in the second round represent national-democratic and national parties and movements, including six candidates from the radical national organization UNA-UNSO. [expansion unknown]

There are also about 400 independent candidates who qualified for the second round of voting. However, some of them support certain political parties and movements.

As many as 49 deputies were elected during the first round voting, including 12 Communists, 2 Socialists, 12 members of the People's RUKh and 2 representatives of the UNA-UNSO.

Most of representatives of the Communist and the Socialist parties were elected in Donetsk, Lugansk and in other eastern Ukrainian regions.

Representatives of the national-democratic and radical nationalist parties and movements received the biggest support in western Ukraine. Most voters in Kiev gave their backing to the RUKh.

UNIAR Reports List of People's Deputies Elected 27 Mar

LD3003230594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2035 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 30 Mar—List of people's deputies of Ukraine elected in the first round:

Kiev:

- Rusanivskyy Constituency No. 17—Volodymyr Lanovyy (chairman of an independent center of economic reform);
- Syretskyy Constituency No. 15—Serhiy Holovatyy (People's Movement of Ukraine, chairman of the Ukrainian Lawyers' Association, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine).

Kiev Oblast:

- Bilotserkivskyy Constituency No. 215—Volodymyr Kravchuk (collective farm chairman);
- Myronivskyy Constituency No. 221—Anatoliy Danileyko (collective farm chairman).

Crimea:

- Bilohirskyy Constituency No. 37—Valeriy Horbatov (director of the Krupska agricultural firm).

Volyn Oblast:

- Volodymyr-Volynskyy Constituency No. 66—Oleksandr Skypalskyy (Union of Officers of Ukraine, chief of the main directorate of military intelligence under the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine).

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast:

- Vasylkivskyy Constituency No. 99—Yevhen Chulakov (Peasants' Party of Ukraine, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine).

Donetsk Oblast:

- Artemivskyy Constituency No. 117—Volodymyr Cherepkov (Socialist Party of Ukraine, director of secondary school No. 5);
- Horlivskyy Central Constituency No. 120—Heorhiy Vyshnevetskyy (Communist Party of Ukraine);
- Druzhkivskyy Constituency No. 123—Kostyantyn Okhrimenko (Communist Party of Ukraine);
- Novokramatorskyy Constituency No. 128—Oleksiy Shekhovtsov (deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Krasnolymanskyy Constituency No. 130—Anatoliy Hunov (entrepreneur);
- Krasnoarmiyskyy Constituency No. 150—Petro Symonenko (first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine).

Zhitomir Oblast:

- Olevskyy Constituency No. 195—Yuriy Spizhenko (health minister of Ukraine).

Transcarpathian Oblast:

- Rakhivskyy Constituency No. 172—Orest Klimpush (transport minister of Ukraine).

Zaporozhye Oblast:

- Vasylivskyy Constituency No. 189—Vyacheslav Velskyy (chairman of collective farm "Ukrayina").

Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast:

- Tsentralnyy Constituency No. 196—Volodymyr Pylypchuk (Democratic association "Ukrayina", chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council commission for economic reform);
- Kaluzkyy Constituency No. 197—Volodymyr Mulyava (Democratic Party of Ukraine);
- Kolomyyskyy Constituency No. 198—Pavlo Movchan (Democratic association "Ukrayina", deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Dolynskyy Constituency No. 199—Stepan Volkovetskyy (Democratic Party of Ukraine, chairman of the oblast council of people's deputies);
- Rohatynskyy Constituency No. 202—Roman Krutsyk (Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, head of the oblast council department for issues of restoring the rights of the rehabilitated);
- Tysmenytskyy Constituency No. 205—Yevhen Pronyuk (Ukrainian Republican Party).

Lugansk Oblast:

- Antratsytivskyy Constituency No. 241—Valentyn Yeskov (Communist Party of Ukraine, director of the overnight sanatorium of the "Antratsyt" production association);
- Krasnodonskyy Constituency No. 243—Anatoliy Levchenko (Communist Party of Ukraine, team leader at the "Duvannaya" mine);
- Krasnolutskyy Constituency No. 244—Oleksiy Dmytrenko (nonparty member, director of private firm "Fold");
- Sverdlovskyy Constituency No. 249—Viktor Tsybenko (Communist Party of Ukraine, head of preconscription training at secondary school No. 7 in the town of Sverdlovsk);
- Bilovodskyy Constituency No. 253—Oleksandr Cherenkov (Communist Party of Ukraine, chairman of the Dzerzhynskyy collective farm);
- Perevalskyy Constituency No. 255—Dmytro Petrenko (Communist Party of Ukraine, head of "LuganskUgleStroy" trust);
- Starobilskyy Constituency No. 259—Yuriy Donchenko (Communist Party of Ukraine, deputy chairman of the oblast committee of the automobile transport and road workers trade-unions).

Lvov Oblast:

- Zaliznychnyy Constituency No.261—Stepan Khmara (Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Lychakivskyy Constituency No. 263—Ihor Yukhnovskyy ("Nova Khvylya", deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Pivdennyy Constituency No. 264—Viktor Pynzenyk

("Nova Khvylya", deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Drohobytskyy Constituency No. 267—Les Tanyuk (People's Movement of Ukraine, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Chervonohradskyy Constituency No. 270—Yevhen Zherebetskyy (People's Movement of Ukraine);
- Buskyy Constituency No. 272—Ihor Koliushko ("Nova Khvylya");
- Mostyskyy Constituency No. 278—Ivan Bilas (Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists);
- Pustomytivskyy Constituency No. 279—Mykhaylo Kosiv (People's Movemen of Ukraine, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Sokalskyy Constituency No. 280—Yaroslav Kendzyor (People's Movement of Ukraine).

Odessa Oblast:

- Velykomykhaylivskyy Constituency No. 310—Mykhaylo Myaskovskyy (Communist Party of Ukraine, consultant of joint venture "Tira").

Poltava Oblast:

- Kremenchutsko-Kryukivskyy Constituency No. 322—Hryhoriy Omelchenko (Union of Officers of Ukraine).

Sumy Oblast:

- Romenskyy Constituency No. 348—Volodymyr Marchenko (Socialist Party of Ukraine, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine).

Ternopol Oblast:

- Podilskyy Constituency No. 357—Vyacheslav Chornovil (chairman of People's Movement of Ukraine, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Borshchivskyy Constituency No. 359—Mykola Horbal (Ukrainian Republican Party);
- Zbarazkyy Constituency No. 361—Mykhaylo Ratushnyy (Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists);
- Chortkivskyy Constituency No. 365—Yuriy Tima (Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense).

Chernovtsy Oblast:

- Kitsmanskyy Constituency No. 437—Heorhiy Filipchuk (Democratic association "Ukrayina").

Chernigov Oblast:

- Borznyanskyy Constituency No. 445—Ivan Plyushch (chairman of the current Supreme Council of Ukraine);
- Novhorod-Siverskyy Constituency No. 448—Leonid Kuchma (Inter- regional Bloc of Reforms, deputy to the current Supreme Council of Ukraine).

This information was provided by the press center "Election-94."

Positive Result in Plebiscite on Crimea-Ukraine Ties

LD3103111694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Today, in Simferopol, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is to hold a news conference for journalists on the results of the plebiscite. Its results were determined last night. The first question was: Are you in favor of renewing the provision in the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea dated 6 May 1992, which defines the regulation of relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of agreements and treaties? This question was answered in the affirmative by 78.4 percent of the people. Dual citizenship was backed by 82.8 percent of those polled. Around 80 percent of Crimea's population believe that the Crimean president's directives on the issues, that are temporarily not settled by the Republic of Crimea's legislation, should be granted the status of laws.

Over 1 million Crimeans took part in the plebiscite.

Ukrainian Official on Elections, Navy

BR3003150494 Brussels LE SOIR in French 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Myroslav Popovych, member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, by Pol Mathil in Kiev; date not given: "On the elections in Ukraine"]

[Text] [Mathil] Contrary to all forecasts, 75 percent of Ukrainian voters went to the polls. Is that a surprise?

[Popovych] I am surprised. It is further evidence that sociology is not an exact science.

[Mathil] Were the Ukrainians not said to be disappointed and apathetic?

[Popovych] Disappointed yes, but not apathetic. The Ukrainians seemed to be absent from public life because they did not identify with the existing government. Logically, they went to the polls to express that rejection. There was a surprising resurgence in the last two or three weeks.

[Mathil] What was the reason for this resurgence?

[Popovych] It is mainly what I call the "Canary Islands phenomenon." Dmytro Poyizd, a vulgar and populist leader, found an audience for his slogans which were very hostile to the whole political class: "We will find all these profiteers and traitors," he said, "even if they hide in the Canaries," a symbol of opulence in his eyes. For some people that was enough. He was elected in the first round.

[Mathil] And who will vote in the second round? Do you have any forecast to make for the future Parliament?

[Popovych] No. Only 49 deputies were elected in the first round, in other words there are still 802 candidates in the second round. Our electoral Commission was not

capable of telling us, 48 hours after the election, who will run against whom in these 401 duels. That being so, my forecast is as imprecise as it is pessimistic.

In short, the Parliament will not bring about many changes. Our democracy is very young, the political parties are very weak, and the politicians are not very mature, some are already corrupt. The government has neutralized some of its opponents, in particular by distributing apartments to deputies in the capital's fashionable districts. That area is called "Tsarskoye Selo [as published]," a reference to the residence of the czars near St. Petersburg. Our electoral law is harmful, it has really liquidated the political parties. Honest candidates could not withstand the assault of populist, nationalist, or communist propaganda.

[Mathil] So who will govern this country?

[Popovych] In general, the same people, those who are called "the government party" in our country.

[Mathil] What about the presidency?

[Popovych] Exit Leonid Kravchuk. His career is over. Enter Leonid Kuchma. It is he who will be president of Ukraine after the elections on 26 June.

[Mathil] What will he do?

[Popovych] Nobody knows. Not even him. But it is he, the former boss of "Yuzmash [as published]," the biggest missile factory in the world, and former prime minister who, if he keeps his promises, will perhaps implement a series of reforms, which Kravchuk has been incapable of doing.

[Mathil] The West will miss Kravchuk...

[Popovych] Yes, he has merits. He did not understand anything about economic affairs, but he created Ukraine's image abroad. He was able to avert the specter of Russian occupation. There are of course problems like the Crimea or the Black Sea fleet, but in short, he has removed the "Serbo-Croat prospect" from Ukraine.

[Mathil] Permanently?

[Popovych] Nothing is permanent. Russia will try to gain the right to examine all of Ukraine's strategic decisions. Of course, we would like to be closer to Poland, in other words to Europe; we have made various proposals, but, as you know, Warsaw is not very welcoming. There is the shadow of Moscow...

[Mathil] Would you be prepared to give up half of the Black Sea fleet?

[Popovych] I am prepared to give up the whole fleet. The problem is that that will never end. After the fleet there will be Crimea, then Donetsk, and so forth. Without Ukraine, there is no Russian empire. However, in Moscow people are dreaming more and more of a new empire.

[Mathil] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has said that he will request the aid of the Black Sea fleet to achieve his separatist dreams...

[Popovych] Meshkov is a dangerous imbecile. In comparison with Meshkov, Zhirinovskiy is a pillar of lucidity.

[Mathil] What can the West do?

[Popovych] The West does not understand anything about what is happening in our country. It has the Kravchuk complex, like it had the Gorbachev or Yeltsin complex.

[Mathil] What does that mean in practice?

[Popovych] In practice, our elite is virtually banned from radio and television. Why not help it to break Kravchuk's monopoly over radio and television? And then, we must be guaranteed that specific economic aid will accompany our reforms. If and when there are reforms...

[Mathil] Meanwhile?

[Popovych] Today, policy toward Ukraine is still only defined in accordance with policy toward Russia. That is beginning to change. Nothing specific, but we can see that the West is thinking...

[Mathil] You are so critical of all the others. Do you, the former president of "Rukh,[Ukrainian Popular Movement—UPM]" have your own political ambitions?

[Popovych] Oh, no. I was president because a president was needed, but there are enough amateurs in our political class.

[Mathil] You have a very black view of everything...

[Popovych] And how are we living here? Do things look bright?

Official on Keeping Conscripts Within Crimea

LD3003134894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Simferopol 30 Mar, TASS—The Crimean authorities "have no intention of whipping up confrontation" caused by Kiev's negative reaction to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's decision banning recruiting offices to send conscripts outside the Crimea this spring, a presidential aide said.

Valeriy Kuznetsov, Meshkov's military adviser, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday that consultations are now underway with a top military commander from the Odessa military district to iron out disagreements and work out a compromise.

The most probable solution would be to leave half of 3,400 draftees in the Crimea and send 20 per cent (about

680 people) to the Ukrainian Army and 1,000 (about 30 per cent) to the Black Sea Fleet, he said.

Kuznetsov said the other half will be sent to adjacent Ukrainian regions for military training since the Crimea does not have enough training facilities and expressed the hope that 30 to 40 per cent of them will return to the Republic upon the completion of studying.

Speaking about the autumn drafting campaign, Kuznetsov said that "we hope all prerequisites and conditions will be created for military service in the Crimea."

Crimean Aide Rejects Claim to Half of Coastal Fleet

PM3003142794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Sevastopol by Ye. Orobtsova and A. Lomakin]

[Text] [Orobtsova] The Black Sea Fleet remains a bone of contention between Ukraine and Russia. Vladimir Bezkorovannyy, commander of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, believes that the naval vessels of the Black Sea Fleet's coastal service should be divided equally between Russia and Ukraine. However, in the opinion of Valeriy Kuznetsov, the Crimean president's military adviser, Ukraine is not capable of financing combat training even with the minimal number of ships at its disposal. The Black Sea Fleet numbers more than 100 naval vessels in all, only five of which are Ukrainian. Meanwhile, as Valeriy Kuznetsov stressed, Ukraine has considerably increased the number of its ground forces on Crimean territory, where there are now around 50,000 Ukrainain servicemen together with their construction units. Ukraine is probably afraid of the processes that are taking place in Crimea, Valeriy Kuznetsov said, because Crimea is Russian in spirit.

Defense Minister on Black Sea Fleet, U.S. Trip

WS3003183094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 25 Mar 94 p 4

[Interview with Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy by Georgiy Chernomorskiy; place and date not given: "Ukraine Will Live Up to Its Commitments"]

[Text] [Chernomorskiy] Many of our citizens are surely concerned about the implementation of the trilateral agreement signed by the Ukrainian, U.S., and Russian presidents to bring nuclear weapons out of Ukraine. What can you say about this?

[Radetskyy] A total of 2,000 combat units are subject to removal. The first train with 60 combat units left Ukraine for its destination site on 4 March. One could ask, why only 60? Just because this is a technically founded norm. The next trainload was due to leave for Russia on 9 March. This did not happen, though; and it was not the fault of Ukraine. The point is that there was an information leak in the Russian press that revealed the departure date. Can you imagine what could have happened if some lunatic, or a group of people, had decided to follow the example of Herostratus [who burned a famous Greek temple to become famous]?

I believe that it would be better if journalists stuck to the Hippocratic principle of "do not harm." As for the next shipment, it did leave Ukraine, but not before we made sure that all precautionary measure were taken along its route. Ukraine has always had a serious attitude toward its commitments.

[Chernomorskiy] The press has recently published a lot of articles about the excessive number of generals in the Ukrainian Army. They say that Ukraine has more generals than all of the NATO countries combined.

[Radetskyy] The Ukrainian Army, numbering more than half a million servicemen, has 260 generals. So, in this respect, it is not all that different from other Armed Forces in Europe. But this issue did not appear out of nowhere—Ukraine does have many generals. The point is that they are attached to different ministries and committees, and have nothing to do with the Army. Plus, 260 is not a final figure. Under certain conditions, it could be revised and reduced. These conditions, however, do not exist at present.

The Academy of Ukrainian Armed Forces will become operational on 1 September. Beside Ukrainian officers, it will accept foreign and CIS officers for study. As it will need experienced scholars, generals with vast expertise will surely be invited to teach at this institution.

[Chernomorskiy] A lot of speculation was raised by the statement of Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, commander in chief of the Ukrainian Navy, when he said our country has no intention of selling its share of the Black Sea Fleet. At the same time, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, insists that the agreements made in Massandra be honored.

[Radetskyy] There was no Massandra agreement as such, to begin with. Only an agreement on intentions was signed. I believe that these intentions will be implemented only by mutual agreement of the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, who are also commanders in chief of their Armed Forces. They are empowered to make a final decision. In any case, we should clearly define what is subject to division or sale. This is why on 15 March, we began an inventory of the Black Sea Fleet assets as of December 1991, after which Russia and Ukraine are to determine to what degree the fleet should be scaled down. In the end, the final course of action is to be made during the third stage. In any case, Ukraine will not be left without the fleet. Even today, the Ukrainian Navy includes five combat ships, and there are still new ships under construction at Ukrainian shipyards!

[Chernomorskiy] What is the situation in the Air Force? According to evidence gathered by our newspaper, 300

pilots have applied for discharges; because of fuel shortages, they rarely get the chance to fly, losing their skills. The 19 unique TU-160 aircraft, costing $250 million a piece, are also sitting idle on the ground. Their maintenance must be quite expensive, I presume. Maybe we should sell them?

[Radetskyy] Your paper's evidence is, to put it mildly, overstated. There were no more than 100 pilots who requested discharges. These were primarily officers whose length of service makes them eligible for retirement. Some want to change their citizenship and move to another CIS country for permanent residence. This is a natural process. At the same time, I admit that there are reasons for concern. Depending on the type of aircraft, the standard annual flight time for U.S., German, or Dutch pilots is 160-180 hours. This norm was a little lower in the former Soviet Air Force. In Ukraine, it is 25-40 hours in most Air Force units. Of course, the pilots did not fold their wings. They fully exploit training facilities, which unfortunately, cannot substitute for real flying.

Now, about the TU-160's, as Ukrainian airspace is too small, our strategy does not envision employing these planes. I personally believe that these planes can be sold—not for money, though. The dollars or rubles that we would receive for them could get past the Defense Ministry, disappearing in different channels. We would be better off if the other party would pay with components for combat and army aviation vehicles, fuel, or diesel fuel for housing construction. Of course, it is up to the government and president whether or not those planes need to be sold.

[Chernomorskiy] You mentioned housing construction. How many servicemen are without a place to live? How is this problem being tackled?

[Radetskyy] As of 1 March 1994, there were 78,236 officers and warrant officers in the Ukrainian Armed Forces without housing. According to a state program, the Defense Ministry will receive between 24,000 and 28,000 apartments annually. Unfortunately, the state is not in a position to implement this program right now. Last year, we were given only 14,000 apartments in spite of the active engagement of several foreign companies in the housing projects. Things will hardly improve over the next two years. I would like to note, however, that a great deal depends not only on the state budget, but on the attitude of local authorities as well. For example, Dniepropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lvov, and Chernigov Oblasts cope with the problem of housing for the military much better than other regions.

[Chernomorskiy] What are your impressions from your recent trip to the United States?

[Radetskyy] I was part of the president's team and, at the same time, a guest of newly appointed U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. I was quite impressed with my visit to the Pentagon, but it was not over its size or number of hallways. I was stunned by the atmosphere of openness. You know, I am not 20 years old and can tell real candor from phony. All my questions were comprehensively answered. They saw a partner in me, not a potential adversary.

I also had a chance to visit West Point, the oldest military academy in the United States. Our readers would be curious to know that this military institution recently began to admit women. Representatives of the fairer sex account for 12 percent of all cadets at the academy; beautiful, but not weak. I myself saw young women do 50 and more push-ups. U.S. servicemen have an almost fanatical attitude toward sports. One could think they want to restore the traditions of ancient Sparta. West Point cadets are the elite of the U.S. Armed Forces. I am very pleased that the U.S. defense secretary and I reached an agreement on sending a group of our boys to study there.

Finishing on the topic of military educational, I must admit that serious blunders were made while reforming our system of military education. Incidentally, this issue was brought up in parliament by deputies of different orientations. I believe that the Defense Ministry conducted too passive a policy in this sphere, and did very little to turn our academies into forges turning out officers for CIS and other countries.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has recently paid a return visit to Kiev. The Americans were pleased with its results, and expressed their hope that contacts between our two ministries will continue to expand and strengthen.

U.S. Envoy, Crimea's Bahrov Discuss Referendum, Investment

WS3003184894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Mykola Bahrov met today with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller. The Crimean legislative speaker briefed the U.S. diplomat on results of the elections and the referendum conducted on the peninsula. Also discussed were prospects for economic cooperation, in particular, the possibility for investments in the Crimean economy.

Ambassador Miller is also scheduled to meet with Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Saburov and Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin.

Meshkov Issues Decree on National Minorities Law

LD3003210494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2245 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol, 29 Mar—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has issued a decree on a mechanism to implement the law on national minorities. In accordance with the decree, a commission has been set up that is to prepare materials on implementing the rights of citizens

to have their national surnames, first names, and patronymics, and to restore their nationality in documents. Anife Seytomer-Kyzy, adviser to the president of Crimea on international relations, is head of the commission.

Kuchma Urges Early Adoption of Taxation Law

LD3003143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The first law which the new parliament should adopt is a law on taxation. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine, by the co-chairman of the inter-regional bloc of reforms, Leonid Kuchma.

He was elected on March 27 to be people's deputy of Ukraine, winning in his constituency 91 percent of the votes.

Kuchma believes that the legal basis was virtually destroyed in economics. He criticized the activities of the government which in December 1993 freed prices and restricted credits. According to the former prime minister, this has caused the debt crisis and the stoppage of enterprises.

He still believes that the president should be the head of the executive power. He disagrees that the heads of the local councils be granted executive powers.

"On this I agree with Kravchuk. If so, we will really have 26 presidents in 26 regions," said Kuchma.

He spoke against rescheduling the presidential elections for a later date. There are no grounds for that, he said.

Speaking about the problem of relations between the Crimea and Ukraine, Kuchma said that pressure on Crimea will produce no results.

Crimea should be a starting point for reforms in Ukraine, said Kuchma.

Kravchuk: Crimea May Act Freely in Economic Sphere

LD3003181894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev 30 Mar, TASS—The Crimea could act broadly and freely in the economic sphere as envisaged by the law on the delineation of powers between Ukraine and the Crimea, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said on Wednesday. The statement followed his talks with Crimean Vice-President Yevgeniy Saburov on Tuesday.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Kravchuk said that in all other spheres, especially in the political one, the sides "should coordinate their moves and activities, taking into account the interests of Ukraine and the people of the Crimea and international principles, especially those concerning territorial integrity, the sovereignty of states and their borders."

These are the most acute problems, he added. "We need to agree on the status quo and refrain from any pressure," the Ukrainian leader continued, adding that "playing the 'Crimean' card will do no good either to the Crimea, Ukraine or Russia," he said.

Lately Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has come up with a proposal to Ukraine to withdraw its troops from the Crimea and ordered military enlistment offices not to send conscripts outside the Crimea this spring.

Valeriy Kuznetsov, Meshkov's military adviser, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday that consultations are now underway with a top military commander from the Odessa military district to iron out disagreements and work out a compromise.

The most probable solution would be to leave half of 3,400 draftees in the Crimea and send 20 per cent (about 680 people) to the Ukrainian Army and 1,000 (about 30 per cent) to the Black Sea Fleet, he said.

Belarus

Parliament Adopts Law on Constitutional Court

LD3003211094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1943 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk 30 Mar, TASS—The Belarusian parliament adopted a law on the Belarusian Constitutional Court on Wednesday. Authors of the draft law believe that the Constitutional Court "has been fully removed from the sphere of political activities" and its task is to ensure that legislative acts comply with the Constitution.

The law envisages that fundamental principles of the activities of the Constitutional Court is legitimacy, collaboration and publicity. Under the law, a Belarusian citizen, having a juridical degree, high qualification in the sphere of law and high moral standards, is eligible for being elected member of the Constitutional Court. The law stipulates the age limit for judges at 60.

Citizens elected to the Constitutional Court shall not engage in entrepreneurial activities or do any other work for a salary except teaching and research. The law envisages that the court may begin proceedings to establish whether an act is constitutional on the initiative of the president, parliament, a permanent parliamentary commission, a group of no less than 70 lawmakers, the Supreme Court, the highest economical court and the prosecutor general of the Republic.

The Constitutional Court shall be elected by the parliament. The Constitutional Court is entitled to adopt resolutions and begin its activities only if no less than seven judges have been elected. Chairman of a parliamentary commission of the Belarusian parliament assured that elections of the judges of the Constitutional Court may be held no sooner than the Belarusian parliament meets in its spring session scheduled approximately on 17 May.

Dmitriy Bulakhov, chairman of the parliamentary commission for legislature, said that 1 July 1994 is a realistic date when the Constitutional Court is expected to begin its work.

Parties Begin Nominating Presidential Candidates

PM3103110194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Stepanenko: "Presidential Game of Solitaire. Election Campaign in Belorusia"]

[Text] Minsk—The presidency law has been put into effect in Belorusia [Belarus]. The head of state and of the Executive Branch, in the shape of one person, will elected 23 June—this decision has been adopted by the Republic Supreme Soviet.

Political parties and movements have already decided on their sympathies. Those whom the right-wingers have decided to back include former parliamentary speaker S. Shushkevich; the Communists have named V. Novikov, secretary of the Party of Communists of Belarus Central Committee and cochairman of the People's Movement of Belorussia [PMB]; and the "Belaya Rus" Slav Council has named Supreme Soviet Deputy A. Lukashenko.

At a routine sitting of the Coordinating Committee of the PMB—the largest sociopolitical association, which includes 27 parties and organizations—it was decided to assist the action group collecting signatures in support of Vasiliy Novikov. At the same time the PMB deputies' association in the Supreme Soviet has been instructed to organize the collection of signatures among the deputies to put forward V. Kebich, chairman of the Belorusian Council of Ministers, as a presidential candidate. The final decision on PMB support for a single candidate will be made at the Second PMB Congress.

Communist Party Nominates Novikaw

WS3003134894 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Ivan Vasilevich: "Presidential Marathon Has Begun"]

[Text] The Belarusian Party of Communists [PKB], which until recently opposed the introduction of a presidency in the Republic, will participate in the presidential elections. This decision was adopted at the plenum of the Central Committee convened to discuss the new political situation, which developed after the Supreme Soviet passed a corresponding law. PKB members nominated Vasil Novikaw, secretary of the PKB Central Committee, as their candidate for president.

Assessing this fact, numerous experts and observers notice that the left and left-centrist forces composing the People's Movement of Belarus, have probably not agreed on a single candidate for the job of Belarus' first president. At the same time, the opposite wing presents only one candidate for this post—Stanislav Shushkevich. He was proposed by the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly. The Belarusian Union of Entrepreneurs did not remain aloof and proposed its president, Vladimir Karyagin, to participate in the presidential race. However, in the immediate future, everything could change and it is not ruled out that we will learn about other—left, right, centrist, independent, and, by all means, unexpected—candidates.

Opposition Popular Front Nominates Paznyak

WS3003170994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] At a meeting that took place at the Belarusian Supreme Soviet on 30 March, the opposition Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] decided to nominate Zyanon

Paznyak as its presidential candidate. At a press conference on the same day, BNF representative Syarhey Navumchik said that signatures in favor of Z. Paznyak will be collected among Supreme Soviet deputies and Belarusian citizens. In the words of S. Navumchik, while one should not count on support from the deputies, the signature drive among citizens might bring very good results. According to S. Navumchik, activists from the Free Trade Union are conducting a survey among workers at several enterprises to single out the most popular presidential candidates. Initial results are as follows: of 800 workers at the Minsk Tractor Plant, only one person each spoke in favor of Stanislav Shushkevich and Alyaksandr Lukashenka, while the other 798 respondents expressed support for Zyanon Paznyak.

Popular Front Nominates Poznyak

LD3003163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 30 March (TASS)—The Belarusian Popular Front officially nominated on Wednesday its candidate for the upcoming presidential elections.

The presidential nominee is Zenon Poznyak, the front's leader and a people's deputy, coordinator of the parliamentary opposition Sergey Naumchik told a briefing in parliament. He noted that as soon as all the necessary formalities are completed, the Belarusian Popular Front will get down to collection of signatures in support of Poznyak.

Opposition Deputy Reports on Supreme Soviet Closed Session

WS3003150894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1331 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] On 30 March, Syarhey Navumchyk, member of the Belarusian Popular Front opposition in the Supreme Soviet, held a news conference at which he briefed journalists on the course of today's session held behind closed doors. In particular, he told them of a speech delivered by Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislav Bahdankevich, who told deputies that "we have almost matured to the point of taking new steps to reform the economy." Syarhey Navumchyk speculated that the majority in parliament is ready to "fire" Bahdankevich, because the latter has recently begun to show a more and more skeptical attitude toward Belarus' joining the common ruble zone.

According to Syarhey Navumchyk, at the behind-closed-doors session, also discussed was the issue of appointing Anatol Butevich chief of the recently established Ministry of Culture and Press, and Alyaksandr Stalyarov as chairman of the Committee for Radio and Television Broadcasting, which will be established in place of the State Broadcasting Company. Although both candidacies have been put forward by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, they are subject to approval by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and appropriate committees. Syarhey Navumchyk, as a member of the Committee for Glasnost, Mass Media, and Human Rights, stated that it is very unlikely that his committee will support the candidacy of Alyaksandr Stalyarov. According to Syarhey Navumchyk, Alyaksandr Stalyarov has warned him in a private conversation that if members of the committee do not vote for him, he will "cut off the oxygen to the opposition and all democrats," because he is convinced that the Supreme Soviet Presidium will support him. Nevertheless, Syarhey Navumchyk said, even if Stalyarov is appointed by the Supreme Soviet, the Committee for Glasnost, Mass Media, and Human Rights will have the right to veto this decision, and it is going to do so.

Syarhey Navumchyk also pointed out that the presidential campaign has already begun, and that the mass media are being concentrated in the hands of the Cabinet of Ministers, the leader of which is gathering "faithful people" around himself.

Lukashenka Presents Corruption Report, Demands Resignations

WS3003191894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1900 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] On 30 March, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, head of the legislative anticorruption commission, delivered a report at the evening sitting of the 13th Belarusian Supreme Soviet session in Minsk. He said that his commission has demanded the resignation of Deputy Prime Ministers Mikalay Kostsikaw and Stanislaw Bryl; Uladzimir Radkevich, head of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; chairman of the Board of the Belarusian National Bank [Stanislaw Bahdankevich]; and Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski. However, A. Lukashenka did not present specific facts, except in the case of Deputy Prime Minister Stanislav Bryl. According to Lukashenka, S. Bryl pulled some strings so that his son could receive a plot of land on which to build a house. Deputy Prime Minister Mikalay Kostsikaw was one of the people on Lukashenka's list that took advantage of services rendered by the governments's renovation and construction administration, and failed to pay the entire amount of money charged by the administration. In addition, A. Lukashenka said that his commission sent a letter to Belarusian Prosecutor General Vasiliy Shaladonov with the request to see that individuals mentioned earlier in the commission's report be persecuted. There are 54 officials, including Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchanka, named in the report.

Supreme Soviet Rejects Governement Draft on Monetary Policy

WS3103092894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Excerpt] At its 30 March closed session, the Supreme Soviet did not pass any resolution regarding the main

directions of the monetary-credit policy in 1994. National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich pointed out at a news conference that the National Bank and the Council of Ministers had drafted a joint resolution suggesting that the main directions of the monetary-credit policy be adopted; the National Bank's payment bill be proclaimed the only legal tender on Belarusian territory for the period preceding the final merging of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems; the National Bank's motion on commercial banks be confirmed. The motion envisions that commercial banks earmark at least 13 percent of their credit capital for the implementation of promising investment projects.

However, this draft along with other proposals by some people's deputies was rejected by the Supreme Soviet.[passage omitted]

Leftist DSPS: Vouchers Will Strip Workers of Social Rights

WS3103103194 Minsk RID in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] In connection with the Supreme Soviet resolution regarding the issuance of personal privatization vouchers as of 1 April 1994, the Republican Council of the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress, and Justice [DSPS] has addressed workers, peasants, and the working intelligentsia with an appeal to join the DSPS and resolutely demand that the state's economic course be altered. According to the appeal, the actual aim of personal vouchers is "to strip us of national property and of such social guarantees as the right to work, rest, happy childhood, adequate care in old age, free medical care, and housing."

The authors of the document believe that the project of issuing vouchers is "the final stage of transforming the socialist socioeconomic system into a capitalist one, which entails such inevitable consequences for working people as poverty, absence of rights, unemployment and diseases, humiliation, and the tragedy of colonial dependence."

The DSPS Republican Council calls upon the Belarusian Supreme Soviet to reject privatization and offers another way to overcome the crisis. In particular, it suggests that DSPS candidates be elected to the legislature and local soviets; and that the constitution adopted against people's will, be rescinded.

Moldova

Russian Commander Issues Order on Defense Against Attacks

LD3003201294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Commander of the Russian 14th Army in the Dniester region, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, has issued an order to the units in his command to be firm to the point of using arms in stopping any attempted attacks on installations and servicemen. As the commander's press secretary reported, the decision was made in connection with previous instances of attacks on Russian soldiers and threats from armed mafia groups to harm them and members of their families. This information was received through ITAR-TASS channels.

Snegur Dismisses Claims Russian Speakers Leaving

PM3103095794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[INTERFAX report: "Moldavian President Denies Rumors of the Migration of Russian-Speaking Population"]

[Text] Rumors circulating about the migration from Moldavia [Moldova] of the Russian-speaking population have no real basis, Republic President Mircea Snegur stated. He described them as tendentious. Meeting on Monday [28 March] with leaders of Tarakliyskiy Rayon, where there is a concentated population of Bulgarians, M. Snegur also touched on the certification of the population in the knowledge of the state language, scheduled for 2 April. In his opinion, the timetable for this should be finally examined by the new parliament.

At the same time, the president believes that the necessary conditions should be created for study of the state language, and that the state is seeing to this. M. Snegur r marked that knowledge of the state language for people occupying leading posts is obligatory.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Rules Out Nuclear Testing at Semipalatinsk

LD3003144594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] There can be no question of resuming nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk test site, Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev told Russian mass media leaders in Moscow on Wednesday.

He said as many as 526 aerial, surface and underground nuclear blasts had been carried out in eastern Kazakhstan in the past 40 years. An estimated 500,000 people fell victim to the tests and serious environmental damage was caused.

"Kazakhstan has so far been left alone to face those problems. The Russian president and I discussed this at length and I can now say with confidence that Russia will help us in utilizing that large scientific complex for peaceful purposes. For example, the Semipalatinsk site can be used for testing safety systems of the nuclear power plants or as a space training center in concert with Baikonur," Nazarbayev said.

At the same time, he called for an international commission to be set up, Russia included, to assess the volume and nature of damage caused to the people and environment. "This can at least help set priorities in eliminating the harmful effects from testing," Nazarbayev said.

Views Russian-Kazakhstan Relations

PM3003162594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Krasulin: "Nursultan Nazarbayev: We Shall Be Together"]

[Text] "Having signed the package of Kazakhstan-Russian documents on Monday we laid a foundation for our two states to enter the 21st century together. And that accords with our peoples' aspirations," stated Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev at a meeting with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov in which representatives of business circles and the intelligentsia took part.

This meeting was a kind of summing up of the results of the Kazakhstan leader's first official visit to Russia. Nursultan Nazarbayev shared with those present his thoughts about the situation in Kazakhstan and Russia and the prospects for the development of bilateral relations. In particular he noted that he does not agree with the model of the reforms which have been implemented in Russia. Privatization from below has not succeeded and "has merely led to chaos" so Kazakhstan has decided to create state holding companies. In agriculture they have rejected the privatization of land and allowed its leasing for a period of 99 years with the right of inheritance. Kazakhstan has taken the path of retaining strong collective and state farms but on new terms. Here those who want to can always leave and start their own business when they have received their share.

The president dwelled in detail on the nationalities problem. He said that it has arisen as a result of the collapse of "one state in which we all lived." Then Kazakhstan "was pushed out of the ruble zone" and that merely created additional difficulties for people. "If there was the certainty that dual citizenship would make it possible to resolve the problem, we would introduce it. But in this case the problem would still remain at the daily routine level."

Nursultan Nazarbayev stated that as president of a sovereign state he cannot accept the formation that is the CIS. Of the 270 documents adopted by the CIS one of its members has approved 40, another 140, another 150. By creating independent states all former republics of the USSR hoped that they would sell their goods to Europe and receive dollars in exchange. But it has turned out that we had a common market and our goods were only necessary to us. "The time has come for a tougher association," he said. A Eurasian Union based on principles completely distinct from the present community could be such an association, the president said.

Tajikistan

Peacekeeping Forces General Says Republic Needs No Army

LD3003191494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The commander of the CIS peacekeeping force in Tajikistan said he saw no reasons for Tajikistan to have an army of its own.

"Large-scale aggression against Tajikistan is out of the question, although groups of 50 to 200 men might try to break into the territory of the Republic, hoping to get support from groups within (Tajikistan) and pursuing political aims," Colonel-General Boris Pyankov told reporters in Dushanbe on Wednesday. He said he was sure the 15 April deadline for the peacekeepers' presence in Tajikistan would be moved to 31 December.

Pyankov said all financial and other problems the Commonwealth force initially faced had been solved. He said Russia was paying 50 percent of the expenditure for the peacekeepers, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan were paying 15 percent each, and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan 10 percent each.

The general said Tajikistan's leadership wished the force to be enlarged and that it might suggest that Armenia, Ukraine and Belarus send in reinforcements. But he doubted that Belarus would send in any troops, its legislation banning the use of its armed forces outside its territory.

Pyankov on the whole expressed approval of the idea of having more CIS states involved in the peacekeeping

mission, for this would "eliminate all mistrust and give the lie to the accusations that Russia acts as an imperial power."

He said the initiative for giving the peacekeepers the status of a U.N. force had nearly been killed off, the United Nations being unable to fund it. But Russia is ready to pay for its peacekeepers anywhere in the CIS if the United Nations recognizes those expenses as Russia's payments for U.N. peacekeeping missions, Pyankov said. He said a proposal to that effect might be made to U.N. secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, currently visiting Moscow.

Agreement Signed With Russia on Military Call Up

LD3003134794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] A ceremony of signing the agreement between Tajikistan and Russia on the drafting of citizens [of Tajikistan] for military service in the ranks of the Russian Border Troops took place today.

On behalf of the Russian Federation, Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, the commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops and on behalf of Tajikistan, Mahmadsaid Ubaydulloyev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic, signed the agreement.

Tajik Peace Settlement Prospects Viewed

PM3003133194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Berezovskiy: "Pamir Poise between War and Peace"]

[Text] Tashkent—The threat of the avalanche of civil war again hangs over the Pamir. According to reports from Tajik military, in the Afghan provinces of Takhar and Kondoz, opposition combat detachments' reinforced wit armored vehicles are accumulating. Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Tajikistan Islamic Renewal Council, recently issued another bellicose statement about his readiness to continue the armed struggle "against Emomali Rakhmonov's antipopular regime."

The tactical exercises by the CIS coalition peacekeeping forces in "Tigrovaya balka," which ended last Thursday, were a kind of reply to this. Soldiers and officers of the 201st Russian motorized rifle division, the Tajik Army, and an Uzbek battalion took part. A scenario for the repelling of a massive attack from the direction of Afghanistan was rehearsed. The engines of tanks, armored personnel carriers, helicopters, and Tu-22F "Backfire" strategic aircraft roared in the mountain gorges. Coalition Peacekeeping Forces Commander Boris Pyankov believes that the scenario which is being rehearsed could be real. "It is true that I would not like it very much to happen," the colonel general added, "but Allah alone knows how it will all turn out."

Whether Tajikistan will fall into the abyss of a new fratricidal bloodbath depends largely on the success of the talks between the opposition and official Dushanbe. Talks on the subject have long been under way, but the first outlines of the meeting—it is planned to hold it in Moscow—have been carved more or less clearly.

Delegations of seven people each are to sit down at the conference table, and the opposition has received a guarantee of safety. At UN insistence, the talks should begin without any preliminary conditions. The sides have something to discuss. There is the fate of hundreds of thousands of refugees scattered not only in neighboring Afghanistan, but also throughout the former Union, the collapse of the Tajik economy, and the future identify of the state and power structures. But, of course, the most important thing is to put an end to the bloodshed, without which getting out of the rockfall of problems descending on the young independent republic is inconceivable.

Obviously, the peace process in Tajikistan is encountering a series of underground rocks. Thus, the radical opposition defending its interests with weapons in hand is insisting that the delegation include Chief Justice Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzod, the Muslims' former spiritual leader and Mukhammad Sharif Khimmatzad, leader of the banned Islamic Revival Party. They are both regarded in Dushanbe as the main culprits in unleashing civil war. For the Tajikistan leadership, sitting down at the same table with them means recognizing them as equals and in part "losing face." Most likely Dushanbe's strategic partner, Uzbekistan, also opposes this twist to the affair. It is hardly fortuitous that a criminal trial began in Tashkent recently of a group of officials of the Central Asia Muslims' spiritual directorate. Arrested nearly a year ago, they are accused not only of large-scale embezzlement, but also of transferring $200,000 to the Tajik Muslim leaders to buy weapons. If the guilt of the "servants of Allah" is proven, and there are few doubts that it will be, then the Turkestan public will be even more convinced of "who is who" and Dushanbe will acquire new trump cards.

The Tajikistan authorities obviously consider it acceptable for them to conduct talks with the so-called moderate opposition, which has united in a democratic forces coordination center with headquarters in Moscow. Representatives of "Rastokhez" and other organizations are of course far less involved in the bloody disputes and have nothing to do with the fierce terrorist actions. And it may be expected that official Dushanbe will soon find a common language with them.

At the same time the situation in Tajikistan itself is not that simple. It is no secret that a decisive role in the victory of the progovernment forces was played by the National Front, where the Kulyab people set the tone. Today, they have occupied the majority of key posts in the capital and locally, and that has destroyed the traditional balance of power artificially maintained in the past by the Communists.

Gornyy Badakhshan remains a zone of heightened tension. The drugs mafia have a strong hold there. The former harmony between Tajiks and local Uzbeks is lacking there. Not to mention the Russians, who are still leaving the Pamir in droves since it has become a danger to their lives.

It is characteristic that Tajikistan's opposition and official powers are in favor of good relations with Russia. That of course attests to their realism. Moscow, with its CIS allies, is doomed to be a guarantor of peace in the Pamir. Formally its troops should leave Tajikistan at the end of this year, but that is unlikely if only because, as Pavel Grachev put it, the border with Afghanistan must be held because of the strategic interests of Russia and the CIS.

Probably as a reserve option in case the talks fail, at a recent meeting of the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Russia, and Kazakhstan in Dushanbe Andrey Kozyrev suggested convening an international conference with the participation of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. But will that suit the opposition, which will most likely observe this meeting from the sidelines?

One thing is clear: We must not lose the chance of a political solution to the Tajik problem. That is fraught not only with the danger of the aggravation of the conflict, but also with the danger of its spread throughout Turkestan, dragging into the crater of war new participants, among whom the greatest danger is presented by the Afghan mojahidin and the extremists from the fundamentalist organizations of the Muslim world.

Armenia

Armenia Expresses Regret Over Iranian Statement

LD3003124394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 30 TASS—Armenia is expressing regret over the fact that the Iranian Foreign Ministry came up with a statement concerning the crash of the Iranian plane before the end of the work and the drawing of a final conclusion by a special commission of Iran and CIS, which investigated the circumstances of the accident, acting press secretary of the Armenian president Levon Zurabyan stated today. The statement of the Armenian side came two days after the statement of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which said that the Iranian plane had been brought down on March 17 by a missile, fired by the Armenian troops deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, circulated on the next day after the accident, the Iranian military-transport plane, which was flying from Moscow to Tehran, deviated from his course by about 100 km, instead of entering Armenia's air space. After that it found itself in the air space of Nagorno-Karabakh, where it crashed near Stepanakert. According to the preliminary information of the Armenian side, something went wrong with the mechanisms of the plane, which was denied, however, by experts from the Foreign Ministry, civil aviation and the air force of Iran, who visited Stepanakert. All the 32 Iranian citizens, who were on board the plane, including women and children, died. After official honours in Yerevan, their remains were sent to Tehran.

Probe Into Iranian Crash Proves 'Complicated'

PM3103105194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 9

[Report by Valeriy Aydinyan: "Tragedy Near Karabakh—It Was All Far More Complicated..."]

[Text] Yerevan—The remains of 32 Iranian citizens have been flown out of Yerevan to Tehran. They had been taken to Yerevan from Stepanakert, near which an Iranian C-30 [as published] military transport went down. There was a funeral ceremony at the airport attended by Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan and other ranking republic leaders. Akhmad Sobkhani [name as transliterated], Iranian charge d'affaires in Armenia, expressed gratitude for the sincere condolences. The Armenian side, he said, had proved its good-neighborly relations in practice by actively participating in the investigation into the causes of the crash.

Nonetheless, it would be premature to believe that all the ramifications of the incident have been exhausted. As an Armenian Foreign Ministry representative said in a brief conversation with journalists, "it was all far more complicated than we might have thought."

A special commission including experts from Iran, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and Armenia is still at work in Stepanakert. It is too soon to talk of results, but certain statements by the head of the Iranian experts have sounded a warning. He claimed that the aircraft exploded before coming down, and that it had not malfunctioned. Journalists have not discovered on what this assertion is based. If the aircraft was indeed in proper working order, how could it have been as much as 100 km off course? And why did the aircraft remain at an altitude of 7.5 km for 20-25 minutes over Azerbaijan, but then descend to 3.5 km over the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic? How could the crew have failed to respond to the calls from the air traffic controllers who noticed the course deviation? For his part, Akhmat [as published] Sobkhani rejected the theory that it was an intelligence-gathering flight. The aircraft did not have the necessary equipment for this.

Another point is worrying—in the opinion of certain observers, Iran is inclined to consider Armenia chiefly responsible [glavnym otvetstvennym zvenom], even though the aircraft was not overflying its territory. It is to be hoped that the experts will be able to unravel the true cause of the crash and that this tragic incident will not overshadow Armenian-Iranian relations, which are developing actively.

Azerbaijan

Minister Urges Deserters To Return by 15 Apr

NC3003203894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

["Excerpts" from an interview with Lieutenant General Mamedrafi Mamedov, Azerbaijan defense minister, by Beshir Sherifov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sherifov] We systematically broadcast the Defense Ministry's reports every day. But, in the present conditions it would be more interesting to hear about the situation from the minister himself.

[Mamedov] At present the situation on our borders is favorable. We have strengthened our positions. We want to create an army. It must be created whether or not there is a war. A strong country and state should have a strong and proper army. The entire people and society should be involved in the war. We should have evicted the Armenians a long time ago. I would like to ask: Who is to defend the Azerbaijani soil? We ourselves, the Azerbaijani people. Where are they [deserters] trying to flee? Why and from whom they are escaping?. From ourselves, our own country, mothers, sisters, or brothers? Therefore, availing myself of this opportunity I am informing all the deserters, both soldiers and officers, that in 15 days we will start changing the military

certificates and personal documents. All military personnel must carry their document with them. Those who do not will be regarded as deserters, be they soldiers or officers. Therefore, I am informing them that they still have time, until 15 April. They must return to their military units by 15 April. After that, we will issue no military documents to anyone. The state will take a very stern approach to them.

[Sherifov] The military laws must be obeyed unconditionally?

[Mamedov] Of course. I would very much like for you to put them on television so that their fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, and relatives could see these deserters. There are cases when the son escapes and his father comes and takes his place at the front. Beloved son, where is the morality in this? Who will defend this country? The war will end sooner or later.

I now ask the deserters: How will they dare to look in the faces of their friends and acquaintances serving in the same unit?

[Sherifov] Finally, many are trying to forecast the duration of the war—that is, when and how it will end. As defense minister, what is your forecast, and do you believe such a prognosis can be made?

[Mamedov] I cannot say that the war will end in a month or within six months. It is not possible to make such a forecast, because the enemy cannot be regarded as weak. We cannot say: The enemy is weak so let's launch an attack. We must gather information on the strength of the enemy and then launch an attack. I do not approve of sending our beloved sons to martyrdom for no reason at all. Therefore, it is not possible to state definitely that the war will end in one or two months. It would be inappropriate to say such a thing. Whether the war ends in one month, half a year, or eight months depends on our deserters, the entire nation, and society. Some think that the war is something apart from the people. No. The war is a question of the honor of the people.

[Sherifov] One should rely on one's own people?

[Mamedov] A country relies on its people during wartime. If the people hide their sons, then who is going to take part in the war? We cannot expect people to come from other countries, from Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan, and participate in it and defend Azerbaijani soil. This cannot be. That is the answer to your question.

Armenian Attacks in Agdamskiy Rayon Reported

NC3003173794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Defense Ministry press service reported that the Armenians, supported by armored vehicles, launched attacks against our positions in Agdamskiy Rayon yesterday and during the night of 29-30 March. These attacks were beaten off. Ten enemy soldiers were killed in fighting in Terter area.

CIS Assembly Delegation To Tour Transcaucasus

LD3003183194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—A delegation of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly will set off tomorrow on a tour of Transcaucasian republics in search for ways of settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

The delegation, headed by Kyrgyz parliament chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov, is made up of representatives of Russia, Kyrgyzia and Belarus. The CIS parliamentarians are scheduled to visit Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert, and meet Azerbaijani, Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh leaders.

The previous tour by CIS lawmakers of the Transcaucasia with a peacekeeping mission was taken last September. The parliamentarians met for three times with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev, discussed the possibilities of resolving the crisis with Armanian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership. The delegation also visited Azerbaijan's border regions and makeshift camps of refugees in the Belyagan and Barda districts, met heads of district administrations. The tour resulted in an agreement between the CIS parliamentary delegation and the Karabakh leaders about a month-long ceasefire and partial return of refugees to their homes. According to the lawmakers, to finally settle the Karabakh conflict, the warring sides will need time, patience and negotiating skills.

A new impetus was imparted to CIS parliamentarians' peacekeeping efforts by the Moscow meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani defence ministers with the participation of a Nagorno-Karabakh representative. The meeting was held in February at the initiative of the Russian defence minister and resulted in an agreement on a complete ceasefire and gradual settlement of the conflict.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met on Wednesday with Sherimkulov to discuss the forthcoming trip by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly mission to Nagorno-Karabakh.

After the meeting, the Kyrgyz parliament speaker told TASS that at the moment the interparliamentary peacekeeping group was arranging a meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Karabakh lawmakers in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek.

"We would like to hope that our activities will help restore peace. People are tired of war, of increasing numbers of refugees. None of the states will profit by this", Sherimkulov stressed. "if we manage to promote rapprochement between the warring sides, we would consider our mission helpful", he said.

A senior official of the Russian Foreign Ministry told reporters that the ministry fully supported the intention of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly's peacekeeping group to promote the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement. According to him, the Russian Foreign Ministry "is working in close coordination (with the group) and is ready to render an expert assistance in the activities conducted by the group". Russian diplomats beleive this group "may play a special role, since parliamentarians can help create a favourable atmosphere for concluding an agreement, which is presently being drafted by executive structures".

According to the Foreign Ministry high-ranking official, the main thing to do now is "to bring the sides together, to create a proper atmosphere for signing an agreement to halt the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh". The agreement has already being worked out in principle. Each of the conflicting sides has its own approaches, therefore it will certainly take much effort to have the agreement signed, the diplomat stressed.

Sherinkulov Prepares Meeting of Armenians, Azeris

LD3003163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, and Vitaliy Trubetskoy]

[Text] Meditkan Sherinkulov, head of the CIS Karabakh peace group and chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet who had met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev Wednesday, told Interfax that the next meeting of parliamentarians representing the warring parties would be held in Bishkek.

He also said that he would go on a tour of Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert Thursday to secure an agreement on the date to hold the meeting.

Sherinkulov expressed the hope that a candid exchange of views would take place in Bishkek. "People are tired of death, of continuous flows of refugees and parliamentarians look for points of contact," he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry supports the desire of the CIS inter-parliamentary group to contribute to peace in Karabakh. Galina Sidorova, a political adviser of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who had met with head of the CIS Karabakh peace group and chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet, told Interfax that the ministry maintained close contacts with the group and was willing to help it with expert advice. "We do our best as an executive body. But parliaments are in a position to play quite a different role in resolving the conflict by creating an appropriate environment for acceptance of what the executive branch has prepared," she said.

Ministry Spokesman Says Moscow Talks Useful

LD3003144694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Leader of the Karabakh delegation, Head of the Karabakh Foreign Ministry's Department for International Organizations Masis Mailian, said that the recent talks between Azerbaijani, Armenian and Karabakh experts, under Russia's mediation, were very useful.

To quote Mailian, the strong point of the talks was the participation of the CSCE's Minsk Group, which helped coordinate Russia's and CSCE's peace efforts.

He announced that Karabakh had amended the draft agreement on the termination of the armed conflict and gradual elimination of its repercussions, presented by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He expressed regret that Azerbaijan's position was non-constructive and did not reflect the current situation.

He reiterated Karabakh's readiness to cooperate with neutral mediators.

Elchibey on Aliyev's Suppression of Opposition

NC3003150394 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish 20 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] Abulfaz Elchibey, the deposed president of Azerbaijan and leader of the People's Front, commented on the political future of current President Geydar Aliyev and the latter's desire to hand over the country to the Russians.

Claiming that various provocations are being made to disband the People's Front, which opposes this policy, Elchibey called on the democratic forces in the country to unite against Aliyev.

In his statement made at Keleki in Ordubadskiy Rayon where he has been exiled, Elchibey pointed out that many high-ranking officials of the People's Front were detained on trumped-up charges and vowed: "We will continue our struggle until Azerbaijan becomes an independent state."

He is Bringing the Russians Into the Country

Noting that the Aliyev regime wants to silence not only the People's Front but also all democratic institutions, deposed President Elchibey said that the police is in control of roads leading to Ordubadskiy and reporters, in particular, are prevented from entering the region.

Speaking to a small group of reporters, Elchibey strongly criticized Geydar Aliyev and said the present government has achieved nothing. He said: "While in power we managed to expel nearly 30,000 Russian soldiers from the country. Now, Aliyev wants to reintroduce them into the country. Despite his expressed opposition to this in statements abroad and on television, he is underhandedly exerting enormous effort in this direction. The

Russian troops that are to be brought to the republic, ostensibly to protect the peace, will cause new bloodshed."

Stressing that Azerbaijan has regressed in economic and political fields since the Aliyev administration assumed power, Elchibey noted that despite all these negative developments Aliyev is neglecting everything and is battling the People's Front and other democratic forces.

They Are Muffling Our Voice

Pointing out that the leaders of the People's Front and many people working for the freedom of the country have been detained in recent days, Elchibey said: "It seems that they consider the democratic forces more dangerous than the Armenians; that is why they have dropped everything to battle us. They are detaining our members and preventing reporters from seeing us. They are trying to prevent our voice from reaching the outside world."

Touching on the war with Armenia, Elchibey indicated that Aliyev is lying both to the outside world and the Azerbaijani people, and said: "Aliyev frequently appears on television and announces the liberation of Fizuli and Agdam or advances of our Army with no casualties on our side. The fact is that our side had 14,000 martyrs within 45 days. More than 20,000 were injured. None of the six lost regions, not even a single village, has been recovered."

Adviser Beats Up Human Rights Committee Chairman

LD3103001394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] According to a report of the Khabar-Servis agency, last night, after a routine evening sitting of the Azerbaijani parliament, Neymat Panakhli, adviser to President Aliyev, beat up the chairman of the republic's committee for human rights, Professor Adalyat Ragimli.

According to the republic's general procurator, perhaps the presidential adviser did not like the speech by Professor Ragimli at the sitting.

Local Currency Plight, Inflation Growth Viewed

PM3003075594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Arif Useynov: "Manats Float"]

[Text] Baku—The manat—the national monetary unit of Azerbaijan—has had a difficult time. It is losing value not by the day but by the hour. To cover up this patent devaluation the National Bank of Azerbaijan periodically sets a new manat rate against the currencies of the former Union republics.

The initial rate was confusing—one manat to 10 Russian rubles [R]. Why not 20? Commercial bank specialists have reason to call a "ceiling"—this arbitrarily established rate has not been borne out by any exchange trading. So what prompted the new rate of one to 14?

As a rule, attempts to discern the economic laws on which the exchange rate is based prove pointless.

On the currency black market—the famous "Molokanka" (from the name of a pleasant little square in downtown Baku)—people are trading at a rate of R1,000 to 275 manats, paying no attention to the bankers' sluggishness. The people on the square do not rule out the possibility that in a month or so a ruble could be worth the same as a manat.

Hyperinflation has long been part and parcel of the Azerbaijani economy, forcing the manat into the most improbable contortions. This was to be expected: Deformations in the economy seem to happen on their own, and the manat has been left to its own devices, as if orphaned. Despite the fact that state property has not been privatized and the mechanism of market relations has not been fully realized, the new manat has been allowed to float. No currency can function normally without a weight of goods to back it—and home-produced goods at that. Having failed to make deliveries of output and goods outside the republic under the clearing system, enterprises have been deprived of reciprocal shipments worth 6 billion manats. Half of last year's cotton and grape crops were not harvested. Meanwhile 80 percent of foodstuffs are bought on the side for foreign currency—weak petrodollars. And these are getting fewer and further between, since oil extraction in the republic has fallen by 800,000 tonnes.

There is no harm in admitting that home-grown businessmen are making a good living from the people's baleful position. The state owes 22 billion manats in wages and pensions, while ministries, departments, enterprises, and commercial structures are keeping R27 billion that they owe to others in Russian bank accounts, earning fabulous rates of interest.

President Heydar Aliyev has demanded that the leaders of debtor organizations repatriate forthwith their exported capital or the products that have been bought with it. Meanwhile specialists believe that the hidden billions are unlikely to save the Azerbaijani economy. The following weighty argument is also quoted: Transactions with Russian banks are not effective [ne deystvuyut], and the Central Bank of Russia is hardly likely to agree to such operations, recalling Azerbaijan's large debts.

Has not the time come to print larger-denomination manats? Those in circulation cannot keep up with galloping prices. The consignment of manats expected to arrive from France will be enough to pay the wage and pension backlog.

And the manat continues to float.

Georgia

State Security Service Subject to Parliamentary Control

LD3103104794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] We have received a resolution on subjecting the State Security Service to parliament, and Igor Giorgadze has been confirmed head of the State Security Service. Here is an interview with Igor Giorgadze:

[Begin Giorgadze recording] If we are talking about Georgian traditions, then I must say that we have little tradition within the security service. We used to have a security service that was built on Soviet traditions. We shall retain the good features of that tradition and, in fact, we have already done so. The bad features that the society rejected will not be implemented.

As for today's confirmation, of course the factor of trust is worth congratulating, but with this confirmation we have not gained anything other than a burden. We must work for the welfare of our motherland. The security service has major problems to tackle. People are looking at this service with hope and we must not shatter our peoples' hopes. [end recording]

Estimated 1,000 Militiamen Occupy Parliament Buildings

AU3103095594 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 31 March (AFP)—An estimated 1,000 Militiamen occupied the Georgian parliament buildings Thursday in protest at the nomination of a new interior minister, correspondents on the scene said.

The protestors, some armed, are opposing the National Assembly's appointment of Shota Kviraia as new interior minister. The action was called for by deputy interior minister and Tbilisi militia chief David Zeikidze.

Correspondents said the militiamen were trying to get into the central chamber of the parliament itself.

Security Guards, Police Clash

LD3103113394 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 31 Mar—According to IBERIA news agency, today employees of the Tbilisi Police Department gathered at the Parliament building. About 500 of them remained outside the building while approximately 300 entered the parliament building.

After confirmation by Parliament of Shota Kviraya as the interior minister of the Republic of Georgia, the police employees started knocking at the door, demanding that the head of state come outside.

There were clashes between the head of state's security guard and police when Shevardnadze came out of the parliament building. Tbilisi police department chief David Zeikidze accused Shevardnadze of breaking his promise and demanded that the case of the interior minister be revised.

Negotiations were held between the head of the Georgian state and the representatives of the Tbilisi Police department. A certain agreement has been reached. Negotiations are still continuing (by 1345).

Shevardnadze Calms Protesting Police

LD3103111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi 31 Mar, TASS—A big group of policemen headed by Chief Police Officer of Tbilisi, Major General David Zeikidze attempted on Thursday to break into the assembly hall of the Georgian Parliament to protest against the planned appointment of Shota Kviraya as the new interior minister.

The policemen managed to get into the buidling and it was Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze who came out to talk to them.

They said that Kviraya is an "unworthy and incompetent man suspected of corruption and mafia links".

Shevardnadze succeeded to bring the passions down and explained to Zeikidze and his policemen that their behaviour was incorrect. The group left the building after that.

Kviraya was appointed the interior minister by the parliament.

Abkhaz Mission Denies Kodor Scene of Fighting

LD3003144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The press service of the Abkhazian mission in Moscow has denied Georgian sources' reports about fighting in Abkhazia's Kodor Ravine.

With reference to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry, an Abkhazian spokesman told INTERFAX that fighting continued from 24 March to 26 March, during which Abkhazians occupied the village of Lata, the Georgian stronghold in this region.

He said, however, that individual clashes were not ruled out.

He rejected Georgian sources' assertions that 60 Abkhazian soldiers were killed on 29 March. Two Abkhazians have been killed since fighting began, he said.

Report Successful Operation in Kodor

LD3003175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, held a conference in Sukhumi on 30 March to report on the operation to eliminate Georgian saboteur groups active in the Kodor canyon, the parliament's press service reported. The conference was attended by Abkhazian Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Mikanba and top officials of the Defense and Interior Ministries and the security service.

An attack by Georgian gangs was said to have been beaten back and several armored vehicles and small arms and a large amount of ammunition captured. The village of Lata, Gulripsh District, was liberated.

The press service also reported that remains had been found of passengers of a helicopter that had flown on a humanitarian mission from the besieged town of Tkvarcheli to Gudauta when it had been shot down by the Georgians in the vicinity of Lata on 14 December 1992.

According to Abkhazian Deputy Defense Minister Nikolay Jonua, "the situation in the Kodor canyon has stabilized and no hostilities are underway other than local exchanges of fire with remnants of Georgian units that have escaped up the Kodor canyon."

Sporadic Gunfire Reported

LD3003201894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow 30 Mar, TASS—The situation in the Kodor gorge has stabilised. No major fighting was reported. Only sporadic gun fire breaks out occasionally between Georgian units staying in the upper part of the gorge, Nikolay Dzhonua, Abkhazian deputy defence minister, told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

The press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet said that the operation to block and drive Georgian subversive groups out of the Kodor gorge has been completed.

The press service said that the situation along the Inguri river remains tense. The Georgian side continues shelling Abkhazian villages and sending out subversive groups to Abkhazia. Despite this, life in the Gali District is returning back to normal. About 30,000 refugees have returned to the district, the local tea packing factory will reopen soon. Electricity supplies have been resumed. There is still a shortage of medics and medicines.

Meanwhile, Georgian sources assess the events in the Kodor gorge as Abkhazia's attempt to prepare for receiving a reinforcement from north Caucasian republics this summer. The Georgian Defence Ministry said that the road passing through the gorge is the safest route for Abkhazian troops and helicopters as mountains cover them from Georgian guns. It also said that Abkhazian troops continue shelling villages lying high in the mountains.

Abkhaz Separatists Continue Attack on Lata Gorge

LD3103092594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry reports that military actions continued in the Lata Gorge last night. Using heavy artillery, the enemy opened fire on the positions of Georgian fighters and border troops. The enemy, who receives reinforcements of manpower and combat equipment every day, is attacking the gorge with a 2,000-strong Army.

Despite numerous attempts by the Abkhaz separatists and the mercenaries, Georgians are retaining their positions.

The evacuation of the civilian population will continue today.

A representative of the press center also told us that the situation remains stable in Zugdidi and that no combat actions have taken place there.

S. Ossetian 'Supreme Council' Elections End 30 Mar

LD3003204694 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Elections to the so-called supreme council of the South Ossetian Republic ended today in Tskhinvali (Samachablo). According to the staff of head of state's office, this action is illegal and unlawful and is aimed at tearing away Samachablo-Shida Kartli from the Republic of Georgia.

It has become known that the population of Samachablo's Georgian villages—the territory that is being controlled by the Ossetian side—were forced to participate in the elections.

New Department To Monitor Political Parties

AU3003162494 Tbilisi NOVAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 4 (70) 94 p 1

[Report by BS PRESS correspondent Aleksandr Imedashvili for NOVAYA GAZETA: "Opposition, Beware!"]

[Text] **"Any political party inciting or carrying out actions aimed at overthrowing the existing state power or social system is liable to be banned" (from the "Law on Political Parties and Organizations").**

In the near future, the department for the control and analysis of the actions of political and social organizations registered with the Ministry of Justice will begin to function within the ministry. If actions are uncovered

that contradict the program and charter of the organization and also, first and foremost, Republic of Georgia legislation, materials will be handed over to the Procurator's Office and the Supreme Court, which have the powers to halt the activities of the organization in question.

Political parties and organizations that carry out and provoke sabotage, hinder the normal functioning of bodies of state power, incite or contribute to the violation of the territorial integrity of Georgia, fan national strife, propagandize military actions, or create armed formations and military associations, will also be liable to be banned.

Estonia

Second Round of Free-Trade Talks With EU Held

WS3003194994 Tallinn BNS in English 1843 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 30, BNS—The second round of free-trade talks between Estonia and the European Union [EU] got down to discussion of concrete questions, head of the Estonian delegation at the talks, Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Priit Kolbre said at a press conference today.

The delegations discussed in Brussels the preambula to the agreement, general principles of the agreement, trade in textiles, agricultural issues and competition policies, Kolbre said.

The preambula details the content of the agreement and states its ultimate objective: Estonia's membership in the European Union.

Under the general principles, the free-trade area as well as trade in manufactured goods free of quotas and customs duties are defined. Quotas or tariffs on industrial goods in accordance with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade may be established with a separate protocol.

A free-trade regime, but with some restrictions, will be established also in the textiles trade. Signe Ratso, a specialist from the Economics Ministry international trade department and a member of the Estonian delegation, said the European Union will not introduce quotas and tariffs on import from Estonia, but reserves the right to establish them as and when needed. Ratso said the European Union fears most transit trade through Estonia and reexport.

Agricultural issues working groups approach the talks on a product-by-product basis. "In the next rounds we plan to put up a fight for more favorable tariffs and quotas for each individual farming product," Agriculture Ministry Deputy Chancellor Ruve Sank said.

The Estonian delegation familiarized its negotiation partners with the Estonian competition law, which the EU delegation regarded in a positive light, said Imbi Markus, a specialist from the Justice Ministry international law department. The two parties agreed that Estonia will have to bring its legislation into line with European standards.

The customs working groups discussed rules of origin and international cooperation. Both documents are standard and pose no problems, claimed Jaanus Raud from the Customs Department, so they will probably be initialed during the next round of talks.

Estonia will under the agreement be allowed to introduce customs restrictions to protect its domestic market, but they must not exceed those of the European Union.

The third official round of negotiations was scheduled to begin April 27 in Brussels, with an unofficial meeting to take place April 12-13 in Tallinn.

Danish Minister Visits, Signs Cooperation Pact

WS3003165694 Tallinn BNS in English 1222 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 30, BNS—Estonia was the last of the Baltic states to conclude a framework agreement on defense cooperation with Denmark.

Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup and his Estonian counterpart Indrek Kannik signed the treaty today.

The framework agreement outlines the principles of cooperation between the Estonian and the Danish Defense Ministries and military structures as well as the relations between military and civilian authorities, foresees establishment of civilian control over military structures, and provides for exchange of information and consultations on peacekeeping issues and military budgeting, as well as for environmental cooperation to eliminate damage to nature caused by the military. The agreement allows the two countries to conclude additional bilateral agreements on military cooperation.

Kannik noted at the press conference after the signing that this is Estonia's first treaty on defense cooperation.

The Danish defense minister stated that his country attaches great importance to the treaty in the hope that it "becomes a vital step on Estonia's road to NATO membership."

Haekkerup met during his visit with Prime Minister Mart Laar, Kannik, Foreign Minister Juri Luik, Parliament Speaker Ulo Nugis, and members of the parliamentary National Defense Commission.

The meetings covered a wide range of issues including the development of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion and Denmark's assistance in it, as well as Estonian-Russian relations and the situation in Europe.

Haekkerup said at the press conference that the matter at issue at present is, not the threat of Russia's military aggression, but its political power. "We stick to our position that Russian troops must leave Estonia," the Danish defense minister said. "Their presence in Kaliningrad is another matter, since that territory belongs to the sovereign Russia, although I think Russia has at present more troops stationed there than necessary for the defense of the region."

Kannik said the Danish defense minister affirmed his negative attitude toward Russia's concept of the "near abroad" and whatever division of spheres of influence in Europe.

"Denmark has done its utmost for Estonia, and Estonia is very grateful to Denmark for its support," the Estonian defense minister said.

Haekkerup yesterday presented the Estonian Defense Forces with an inspection cutter donated by the Danish Royal Navy.

Today, the Danish defense minister delivered a speech on the subject of "Denmark, Estonia and European security" at the Foreign Ministry.

Haekkerup leaves Estonia in the afternoon.

Luik: No Obligation To Follow Riga's Example

LD3103062894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0045 31 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 31 Mar—Estonia is not obliged to follow the Latvian example in the issue of retired Russian servicemen, said Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik speaking to local television on 30 March. "Estonia has no intention of engaging in any compromise in the issue of granting social protection to Russian military pensioners residing in the republic," he said, adding that he had no information about any kind of Western pressure on Estonia over this issue. He said that the guarantees to retired Russian servicemen were the price that Latvia had been forced to pay for the treaty on troops pullout.

As we know, the absence of an agreement on military pensioners is a major impediment to signing the act on final withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

Assessing the prospects of the upcoming new round of Russian-Estonian talks on 5-6 April, Luik said he expected that the agreement on withdrawing foreign troops from the Estonian territory would be initialled. He said that the Estonian side had already been prepared for this a month ago. He added he also hoped that Russia would provide a written "schedule of troops pull-out promised long ago."

Chief Russian Negotiator Says Positive Results Possible

WS3003195694 Tallinn ETA in English 1758 GMT 30 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 30—Head of Russian delegation at Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations Vasiliy Svirin told ETA, on Wednesday [30 March], that the Russian side had "done serious work during the last weeks to continue constructive discussions at the 18th round of negotiations" due on April 5-6 in Moscow, and if similar approach was used by the Estonian side positive results at the forthcoming round could be hoped for.

"We hope that the Estonian side thought over the results of the 17th round and came to the conclusion that we have to find ways to compromise to solve some of the deadlocks," he said.

On Thursday, Estonian Decolonization Initiative Centre will hold a picket in front of the building of Estonian Foreign Ministry to support and encourage Estonian delegation before the 18th round. "Estonian delegation should not choose the Latvian way on the issue of the retired Russian military, but has to lift up its chin," Juri Estam from the Center told ETA.

Officials Comment on Paldiski Registration

WS3003145794 Tallinn BNS in English 1009 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Mar 30, BNS—As many as 1,000 illegal immigrants may at present be staying in Paldiski, Juri Tikk, special representative of the government in Paldiski, said Tuesday [29 March] at a press conference.

Estonian authorities in Paldiski registered 4,576 people by March 26. Civilians, with the exclusion of minors, numbered 3,684; the remaining 892 were servicemen. Tikk claimed the majority of the town's residents turned up for registration.

Population Minister Peeter Olesk voiced the opinion that the greater part of the people who failed to register themselves were those who were absent from the town during the registration.

Tikk said Estonian authorities received on Tuesday the data about the Russian military who live in Paldiski but serve at the Tallinn base of the Baltic Fleet. The list comprised 69 names, he said. "We still haven't got a list of Russian servicemen who serve in the Tallinn-based 144th motorized rifle division but live in Paldiski," the government representative noted.

The registration of Paldiski's residents passed without any particular incidents, Tikk said. It will be followed up by analysis of the forms the residents filled in. The authorities also intend to find out the origin of forged documents that the registration brought to light. [passage omitted]

Minister Approves Plan for Reactor Dismantling

WS3003145694 Tallinn BNS in English 1009 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 30, BNS—Estonian Interior Minister Heiki Arike yesterday approved the working plan of the Paldiski coordination commission. The plan maps out action before the start of dismantling of the nuclear reactors and foresees establishment of an emergency regime in the town for the time the reactors are opened and nuclear fuel is being removed.

The dismantling probably begins after April 10.

Arike told BNS the leaders of the coordination commission "maintain continuous contact with the Russian side." He said a joint meeting will in the near future take place in Moscow to once more go over the action during the dismantling of the reactors.

"The Estonian and the Russian commissions will in a sense fuse during the dismantling, because it calls for prompt exchange of information and joint action," the interior minister told BNS.

Estonia is responsible for security measures during the operation. Arike said the police, the rescue services and the border guards will be involved.

"If additional forces are needed in the area, they will be brought in from all over Estonia, not only Tallinn," the interior minister said.

Customs Expects No Problems With Free-Trade Pact

WS3003164894 Tallinn BNS in English 1222 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 30, BNS—The Estonian Customs Department foresees no difficulties in coping with the Baltic free-trade agreement that comes into force April 1, Jaanus Raud, head of the Customs Department foreign relations division, said at a press conference at the Foreign Ministry today.

Since Estonia has no customs restrictions, the goods coming from Latvia and Lithuania will not add to the workload of customs officers, Raud claimed. Free-trade agreements with members of the European Free Trade Agreement have allowed the Customs Department to gain enough experience in issuing certificates of origin, so the addition of Latvia and Lithuania will pose no problems, he added.

Latvians and Lithuanians, on the other hand, may run into difficulties, since they have established a domestic market protection system and now face the task of checking certificates, Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Priit Kolbre claimed.

Signe Ratso, an official from the Economics Ministry international relations department, added that many Estonian enterprises are impatiently waiting for the free-trade agreement to take effect to begin export of their output into the neighboring countries.

Latvia

Cabinet Statement on Troop Withdrawal Agreement

WS3003145394 Riga LETA in English 1231 GMT 30 Mar 94

["Unofficial translation" of statement issued by the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers concerning a package of agreements on Russian troop withdrawal signed in Moscow on 15 March]

[Text] In support of signing and ratification at the Saeima [parliament] of the Republic of Latvia of a package of agreements initialed at the intergovernmental negotiations between the Republic of Latvia and the Federation of Russia on March 15, 1994, the Government of the Republic of Latvia stresses that signing and ratification of the agreement on Russian troop pull-out from the territory of Latvia by August 31, 1994. After talks which had lasted for two years, for the first time there has finally emerged a chance to solve a part of issues which are of vital importance to Latvia, which would lead to strengthening the sovereignty of Latvia. By stating the deadline of Russian troop withdrawal, the chances to secure international control of the process are considerably increased. Signing of the agreement will show once again Latvia's willingness to join the community of European nations as a full- fledged member of the community. A number of countries over the world have voiced their support of initializing the agreement, describing it as a success of Latvian diplomacy.

Drafting an agreement on temporary operating of the Skrunda radar base in the Republic of Latvia was a compromise, and the Latvian Government had set a series of conditions for adopting it, which have been accepted by the Russian part, namely, internationalization of the site, establishing the international control over the facility, its civil status, and security guarantees for Latvia. The aspects have been discussed at numerous consultations with Western countries. Signing the agreement would rule out a possibility to put to operation the second tier of the Skrunda radar base and would allow to launch an immediate dismantling of the eventually most dangerous part of the facility. An exact date for terminating the operations of the remaining part of the Skrunda radar base, 31 August of 1998, has been stated. The Skrunda site being stationed in the territory of Latvia without a respective agreement stating the exact deadline for its operation, would mean uncontrollable functioning of the facility in Latvia to last for an unspecified period of time.

Under the agreement the Russian part would be allowed to use only a strictly stated limited number of its own experts to secure functioning of the site. The agreement does not envisage any possibility to bring to the site a new equipment or additional contingent of experts, or to carry out modernization of the facility.

Compliance with the agreement is to be monitored by a special tri-lateral commission, including also representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The control over the process of carrying out the agreement exercised by the CSCE, is not the sole guarantee, it is secured also by Latvia's participation in the NATO "Partnership for Peace" programme. The agreement would foster cooperation opportunities between Latvia and Western structures of collective security by showing that Latvia is a politically mature nation which is able to implement a compromise policy also in the interests of the international community. Additionally to the rental to be paid for the Skrunda radar base being stationed in Latvia, the Russian part commits itself to

compensate for the damage caused to the local environment, if any. Persons which would arrive to Latvia to maintain the facility, would go under the general visa regulations.

The agreement on social status of the Russian retired militaries and their families does not provide for their legal position in the Republic of Latvia, which would be envisaged by the legislation of the Republic of Latvia. The claims by the Russian part to grant these people Latvian citizenship are ruled out. In the agreement the Russian part commits itself to continue payments of pensions to the retired militaries, as well as to compensate the health service provided for these people.

The Government of Latvia admits that the agreements contain some concessions which would bear hard on Latvia. The government, however, maintains that stating the deadline for Russian troop withdrawal is the top priority which would open the door for a real pull-out of the army from the territory of Latvia as soon as possible.

Bildt For Parliament Approving Treaty With Russia

LD3003125694 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1030 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Late last night the Latvian Government gave its approval to the treaty with Russia which is to lead to the withdrawal of all Russian troops from the country by 31 August. Today, [Swedish] Premier Carl Bildt travelled to Riga in order to try to influence the Latvian Parliament also to approve the treaty. Lars Gunnar Erlandson reports:

[Erlandson] The lightning visit which Premier Carl Bildt is paying to the Latvian capital Riga today is almost exclusively about what will happen to the treaty which Latvia is about to conclude with Russia. There is strong opposition in the Latvian Parliament to the treaty, which the government has said it will be able to sign shortly. Everything indicates that the Russians will be able to retain a radar station in Skrunda, but one difficult issue is the rights which the Russians are demanding for the thousands of retired Russian military staff remaining in Latvia.

Latvian Premier Valdis Birkavs does not want to divulge what advice he has received from Bildt, but he stressed that Sweden's view of security in the Baltics is very important. This is what Premier Carl Bildt had to say after the discussions in Riga.

[Begin recording] [Bildt] I believe that the great significance of this troop withdrawal treaty is recognized here. At the same time, we recognize the very difficult decisions which this treaty means for Latvia, both with regard to the radar base in Skrunda and with regard to the rights following from this for certain military officers to retire here.

[Erlandson] Is that the hardest nut to crack?

[Bildt] It is difficult to know which is the hardest, but a treaty of this kind means coompromise on both sides. There is a strong nationalist opposition in Russia which does not want this treaty at all, and there is uncertainty here, too.

[Erlandson] But could there be a treaty where something is excepted, for instance the issue of retired officers?

[Bildt] That is part of the treaty, so I found it difficult to see that, as things are now developing. The treaty is written as a whole and all these things must be sorted out one way or the other in a relationship governed by a treaty between Latvia and Russia. One must be clear that, in the relations between a large country like Russia and a small country like Latvia, it is in the interests of the small country to have a treaty. A state without treaties can always be utilized by the big ones, treaties are always in the interests of the small ones. [end recording]

Ulmanis Briefs Bildt on Agreements

LD3003195494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt came to Latvia today for a brief working visit. The guest had a meeting with President Guntis Ulmanis and also with representatives of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Saeima and its head, Aleksandrs Kirsteins.

The Swedish prime minister emphasized that, in his opinion, the initialled agreements with Russia should be signed, because such a process of dealing with relations between neighboring states is strengthening Latvian ties with Western countries. The stability of Latvia is also important to the Nordic countries. Also, the United States has become morally involved in the forming of the agreements. This process has been internationalized, and with internationalization the process is significant to the entire Western world.

The Swedish prime minister assessed positively the intention of Guntis Ulmanis to meet prominent European politicians in the nearest future. Quite probably official guarantees would not be given during these meetings, Bildt said. The talks, however, would assist foreigners in understanding better the difficulties connected with the signing of these agreements.

Ulmanis told the Swedish prime minister that the inhabitants of Latvia have diverse attitudes toward the initialled agreements between Latvia and Russia. There is also opposition to the government's and the Saeima majority faction's standpoint. In the latest sociological poll, 52 percent of the participants have expressed themselves against the Skrunda radar station remaining in Latvia. The president, too, is receiving many letters from writers who are against the initialled agreements.

The inhabitants are alarmed, most of all, over the social guarantees to former Soviet army officers that are envisaged in the agreement, because these will allow approximately 100,000 officers and their families to remain in

Latvia. There is also no conviction that Russia will fulfill these agreements. The president emphasized that it is also not clear what kind of guarantees the Western countries could give to Latvia. It also cannot be forgotten that Latvia was occupied in 1940, which Russia should, after all, recognize.

Aleksandrs Kirsteins, head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Saeima, in turn explained to the guest that the position of the State of Latvia on the question of signing the agreement must be coordinated with Estonia, because she does not initial agreements with Russia in the sphere of social guarantees to military pensioners. The prime ministers of Latvia and Estonia will meet on 7 April to discuss these questions. The talks are envisaged in Rujiena, and the press center of the Cabinet of Ministers organizes representatives of the press who would like to accompany those travelling there.

Bildt on Latvia's Problems

LD3003200794 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1545 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Premier Carl Bildt was today on a brief visit to Riga, the capital of Latvia, and his aim was to try to speed up the agreement on the Russian withdrawal of troops from Latvia. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The agreement exists on paper, but the Latvian Government has not taken a final decision on it and there is strong opposition in the parliament to some of the points in the agreement. One stumbling block has been the Russian radar base in Skrunda in west Latvia, but that is allowed to remain during a dismantling period of approximately five years. Bildt said that Sweden can think of economically assisting the dismantling. [passage omitted on Latvia's problem with retired Russian military personnel]

During his visit to Riga, Bildt held meetings with President Guntis Ulmanis and Premier Valdis Birkavs and representatives of the opposition. Russia is not treating its former obedient Latvia with enough respect. The Latvians for their part must understand that Latvians have most to gain from an agreement with the Russians—that was Bildt's message. This is what Bildt said on what was discussed in Riga today:.

[begin Bildt recording] We have discussed the continuing process and this means both the process toward Russia—where a meeting between President Ulmanis and President Yeltsin is currently being prepared, where certain outstanding questions will be solved—and the process which must continue when we are creating increased understanding both in Latvia and in western countries for the Latvian security situation and concerns. [end recording]

Homeland, Freedom Deputies Demand Information

WS3003195194 Tallinn BNS in English 1843 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 30, BNS—The Saeima (parliament) Homeland and Freedom faction and several Latvian National Independence Movement deputies handed Wednesday [30 March] a declaration to Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs.

In the declaration the deputies demand to be informed about the control over the course of Russian army withdrawal, and measures which will be taken to prevent the growth of number of demobilized officers in Latvia, the Homeland and Freedom faction head, Maris Grinblats told reporters.

The deputies also demand that the Latvian delegation did not initial the agreement between Russian and Latvian governments on Russian military pensioners, living in Latvia, and their families' social guarantees.

Grinblats says that, in accordance with the Defense Ministry's given information, the leadership of the Russian Northwest Army Group tries to increase the number of retired militaries in Latvia. There can be observed a large scale demobilization of Russian officers in Latvia, and permissions for a stay in Latvia are asked also for the military personnel which has already moved to Russia.

The deputies consider that the Cabinet has not taken the necessary measures to prevent the demobilization of Russian militaries in Latvia and transmigration of Russian army in the territory of Latvia. They claim that the Cabinet has to prevent by way of legislation Russian militaries' involving in the activities of business structures, and it has to tightened control over procedure of issuing the stay permissions.

Popular Concord Party Supports Withdrawal Accord

WS3003194894 Tallinn BNS in English 1843 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 30, BNS—The signature and ratification of the agreement with Russia on troop withdrawal is in the interests of the Latvian security and sovereignty, the provisional board of the Popular Concord Party said Wednesday [30 March].

The party says it cannot understand why the preparation of the agreements was delayed for two years, thus, losing the time when the agreement could have been based on terms more advantageous to Latvia.

The party is surprised why international experts have not unveiled their views on the environmental and health effect of the Skrunda radar yet. The findings missing, the radar facility has become an object of conflicts and political speculations.

The issue of the amount of rent for the radar's functioning should not be left only with the presidents of Latvia and Russia because the Latvian Constitution grants the country's president no such prerogative. The party wants Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs to also sign the anticipated rent contract.

Cabinet Approves Privatization Agency

WS3003164994 Tallinn BNS in English 1222 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 30, BNS—The Latvian Cabinet adopted a resolution Tuesday [29 March] on the foundation of a Privatization Agency and confirmed its statutes.

The government also commissioned State Reforms Minister to organize Latvia's entrance to the International Institute of Administrative Sciences.

In addition, the ministers passed a proposal to the Saeima (parliament) on the ratification of the 1963 Vienna convention on civil responsibility for nuclear damages and the 1988 common protocol on the use of Vienna and Paris conventions.

The government also passed for Saeima consideration a bill on radiation and nuclear safety, and approved a Latvian-Indian memorandum on cooperation in culture, science, education, information and sports.

Lithuania

Brazauskas, U.S. Envoy Discuss Regional Issues

LD3003174194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Today President Algirdas Brazauskas received Darryl Johnson, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Lithuania. Brazauskas described to the ambassador the results of a meeting of the three Baltic presidents in Palanga and the forthcoming visit at the end of April by Polish President Lech Walesa.

Ambassador Justas Paleckis, presidential adviser on foreign policy, told ELTA that views were exchanged on the relations of both states with Russia, Ukraine, and other CIS countries.

The U.S. ambassador thanked Brazauskas for the information and said that Washington was observing with attention and approval the strengthening cooperation of the Baltic states. Johnson stressed that the U.S. leadership welcomed the initialled Lithuanian-Polish political treaty. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has sent a letter to the Lithuanian foreign minister approving the initialling of that treaty.

Premier, Foreign Minister on Foreign Policy

LD3003122494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0732 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Today, esteemed listeners, you will hear a recorded conversation with the prime minister and not a regular live broadcast from the prime minister's reception. At the moment the prime minister is on his way home from Slovenia. We inform our listeners that the recorded conversation will be about Lithuanian foreign policy. Therefore, apart from the prime minister, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys is also taking part in the conversation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The first question is to the prime minister: what are the objectives of the visit to Slovenia. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Now concerning the recent uproar which is felt here in Lithuania—the Selma [construction company] case, the purchase of weapons, searches carried out in people's houses, and so on. Why does Russia show such a great interest in all this? Why such reaction?

[Prime Minister Slezevicius] The reaction, which was first of all voiced by Mr. Matochkin and Mr. Yegorov during their visit here, is about Russia's concern that the construction of houses in the Kaliningrad region may be discontinued. This is the official pretext for their concern. During our meeting and during our visit to the Kaliningrad region we made assurances that, as far as Lithuania is concerned, there would be no obstacles toward the construction being continued. [passage omitted]

The comments which appeared in the Lithuanian press concerning this criminal case is rather categorical, saying that the case is leading to high-ranking Russian officials, therefore it is only understandable that this causes them concern. I think that such allegations do not help in the normalization of our mutual relations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could you comment on the military transit from Kaliningrad and back?

[Slezevicius] The location of the Kaliningrad region is rather unique indeed. It is an enclave. Therefore, naturally it causes certain problems both to Kaliningrad and Lithuania, because in spite of our categorical attitude to this issue, the transit through Lithuania is unavoidable and therefore it is our task to determine the procedure with regard to how the transit of foreign transport should proceed through our country. [passage omitted]

[Foreign Minister Gylys] [Passage omitted] There is yet another question. I would like to clarify a report by the Baltic News Service concerning motor vehicle transit. Russia indeed wants some priveleges for motor vehicle transit. However, our state has...[pauses] Being aware on the one hand, as the prime minister has already mentioned, of Russia's right, perhaps a wish, to have access to the enclave, however, we have to be in control of all this movement. Therefore, the BNS report claiming that

an agreement has already been reached on motor vehicle transit is premature. The problem is very complex indeed.

[Correspondent] The following rather pressing question is about relations with Poland. Here is the recorded voice of Augustinas Rimkus [not further identified] from Vilnius.

[Rimkus] Why is the text of the treaty with Poland being made secret? The article in the treaty concerning the occupation by Zeligowski should be confirmed not only by the representatives of the government but by the entire nation. All this should be condemned, however all this is being made secret. [end recording]

[Correspondent] There are more listeners voicing their concern that the texts of inter-state treaties are not made public in advance.

[Slezevicius] [Passage omitted] There is one point, however, whereby I can assure that this treaty fully corresponds to the interests of the Lithuanian state. Any attempt to aggravate inter-state relations is not wanted. We had to find mutually acceptable formulations which would satisfy both sides concerning the evaluation of the historical facts and, of course, ensuring the inviolability and integrity of our territory. These general principles have been recorded. The treaty has been initialled by Mr. Gylys, who is taking part in this conversation.

It is clear that in the second half of next month the visit by Polish President Walesa is to take place, during which the treaty will be signed, and of course, following this, the treaty will be made public.

[Gylys] It is of interest to note that when I arrived in Poland I was acquainted with the materials [not further specified] and I noticed that the formulations and statements by the radical forces are similar to those here in Lithuania. The Polish radical forces—it is true that they are not as numerous as they are in this country—say that with this treaty Lithuania has forced Poland to go down on her knees. Something similar is hear from the side of our radicals.

[Slezevicius] The initialling of the treaty, in spite of the radical voices mentioned by the minister, has been received essentially very positively. This will be a very positive step toward the normalization of our mutual relations. Following this an agreement on free trade, upgrading the border regime, joint work by the customs houses, and other steps must follow. The political treaty will become the foundation for the acceleration of our further economic relations.

[Gylys] The world community reacted positively to the step taken by us. Yesterday, I received a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. We also received a letter from France and we also expect more support. The world understands that relations with neighboring countries should be normalized.

[Slezevicius] [Passage omitted about the assistance given by the Scandinavian countries]

[Correspondent] I would like to ask you about Lithuania's relations with Germany.

[Gylys] Germany made a significant step by inviting the foreign ministers of the three Baltic states to the capital city. We had a five and one-half hour long consultation session on all issues. The main issue was our integration into Europe both in the economic, security, and political sense. We believe that Germany has adopted a very clear stance; Germany is our ally and demonstrated this unequivocally.

[Slezevicius] I would like to mention that Germany is our biggest trading partner in the West. Half of all the trade volume with the West is comprised of trade with Germany. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What are relations like with other European organizations, including NATO?

[Slezevicius] After 14 May last year, our dialogue with the European Union has been developing rather dynamically after the Maastricht Treaty. These are very important stages: our aspiration for a free trade agreement, an intensive dialogue, and consultations on this issue are taking place, much hard work is to be carried out by us. There is also the Partnership for Peace signed by the president. Our aspiration is to set up a peace-keeping battalion together with our neighboring countries, which would be the first serious step—apart from the Partnership for Peace—toward integration into the NATO defense structures.

We are aware that our gaining membership of NATO is a long process. Therefore, while being aware of this, we have to set up the basis for this in various aspects, which include the standardization of weapons, using the same methodology, and so on. [passage omitted] The confirmation by Germany that compensation will be paid for the damage [inflicted on Lithuania during World War II] has been reached. It is evident that the process of negotiations on this issue should be accelerated, and of course it must be specified in which way and by which dates this compensation will be met. [end recording]

CE Official Notes President's Upcoming Address

WS3003195494 Tallinn BNS in English 1843 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Vilnius, Mar 30, BNS—The Council of Europe [CE] expects Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas to express his views on some key issues of his country's domestic and foreign policy.

Brazauskas is scheduled to make a speech at a session of the CE Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg April 14.

Traditionally, one or two state leaders are invited to the assembly's session. This time, Brazauskas will keep company with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Heinrich Klebes, deputy secretary general of the CE, said although Lithuania is a small country, the assembly will listen "very attentively" to Brazauskas' report.

At a press conference in Vilnius Wednesday [30 March], the CE official said Brazauskas is expected to assess the situation in the Baltic states and in Russia. The CE would like to know the president's opinion about the prospects of Russia's membership in the organizat... and about the future of the Kaliningrad region, Klebes said.

Brazauskas is also expected to discuss some domestic policy issues, including Lithuania's preparation to join the European convention on human rights and freedoms.

The protocol of the assembly does not oblige state leaders to answer questions of assembly members, but in Klebes' words, the Lithuanian president is prepared to answer even spontaneous questions. "The Parliamentary Assembly appreciates this," the CE official said.

Commenting on prospects for the Baltic states to become associate members of the European Union, Klebes expressed certitude that this will happen soon, but reminded reporters that the matter is not within his competence.

On Wednesday, Klebes completed his four-day visit in Lithuania, during which he met with Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas, members of the several parliamentary committees and Lithuania's delegation to the CE Parliamentary Assembly. The CE official also visited the second biggest Lithuanian town of Kaunas.

Klebes said he is satisfied with the results of his stay in Lithuania. In his words, it is very important to maintain close ties with new members of the CE. [passage omitted]

Visit of Swedish Navy Commander

LD3003201494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Admiral Sten Swedmund, commander of the Swedish Royal Navy, who is in Lithuania, paid a working visit to the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense today. He met the Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius, Lithuanian Army Commander Jonas Andriskevicius other ministry officials, and commanders of Lithuanian flotilla. Admiral Swedmund shared his impressions about the Lithuanian naval flotilla which he visited [words indistinct] yesterday, and discussed the possibilities and conditions of training Lithuanian seamen in Sweden.

National Currency Pegged to U.S. Dollar at 1:4

LD3003133094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Here is the much awaited report on the reliability of the litas. Government press spokesman Viktoras Baublys informed us that while carrying out the decision of 17 March this year concerning the reliability of the litas—the Lithuanian national currency—and after coordination with the Lithuanian Bank, a decision was adopted by the Government of Lithuania on the base currency and the official exchange rate of the litas.

Therefore, the U.S. dollar has been determined as the base currency and the official exchange rate of the litas is four litas to one U.S. dollar.